

MARVEL MASTERWORKS
THE UNCANNY X-MEN
VOLUME 16



THE UNCANNY X-MEN Nos. 232-243
ANNUAL No. 12 & X-FACTOR Nos. 37-39
CHRIS CLAREMONT & MARC SILVESTRI
WITH LOUISE SIMONSON & WALTER SIMONSON

MARVEL MASTERWORKS
PRESENTS

THE UNCANNY
X-MEN

VOLUME 16

COLLECTING

THE UNCANNY X-MEN Nos. 232-243,
ANNUAL No. 12 & X-FACTOR Nos. 37-39

CHRIS CLAREMONT • MARC SILVESTRI
WITH LOUISE SIMONSON & WALTER SIMONSON



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MARVEL MASTERWORKS

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X-MEN CREATED BY STAN LEE & JACK KIRBY

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INTRODUCTION

BY CHRIS CLAREMONT

Stan Lee and Jack Kirby are responsible for what you’re reading now.

Big deal, you might respond. Stan & Jack (& Steve Ditko, of course) are responsible for pretty much *every* Marvel character of note and by extension everything that’s followed, regardless of media. Which is true.

I’m one of the readers that walked into their local newsagent-coffee shop one fine day on my way home from school and picked up a copy of *Fantastic Four* #48. The story that issue was the Watcher warning the Fantastic Four of the coming of a world destroyer whose herald, the Silver Surfer, preceded him. And then, on the last page of the issue: enter Galactus. I was intrigued enough to pick up the following one so I could see what happened next, and then the next one to discover how it would all turn out. (Totally outmatched, the FF still managed to find a way to win.)

I liked the art, I liked the writing, I liked the characters, I wanted to see where they and the series would go on from there.

That was close to *60* years ago.

Reading this, both the intro and the contents herein, should provide a fair idea of what pretty much happened “next.”

What you have here is an arc of the series I became responsible for—*The Uncanny X-Men*—written roughly twenty years after that fateful moment, from the summer of 1988 through to the spring of 1989, including a 1988 *Annual*.

Publishing life was *way* different back then than it is today. Creators don’t seem to stay on titles for an especially long time in the present. Then, it was different, especially—somewhat to my amazement—where I was concerned. I found myself taking my cue from Stan—who hired me—and he was the *FF*’s writer for over a hundred issues. My initial run on *Uncanny* lasted almost twenty years, for the best of creative reasons. True, the series had been around for a decade when I took the reins but the vision of it then, in 1975, was brand-new. The original cast, save for Professor X and Cyclops, had moved on, were replaced by characters brought to life by one of the premier visual creators of that era, Dave Cockrum. Readers knew their names, their abilities, what they looked like, where they came from; beyond that, nothing. Fertile territory that I quickly planted thick with seeds.

And boy, was it fun. Dave and I transformed Jean Grey into Phoenix and through her saved the omniverse. John Byrne and I evolved her into *Dark* Phoenix and brought her life to an end. Paul Smith and I gave Scott Summers (Cyclops) what we thought was a happy ending and along the way kicked the book’s sales into the stratosphere. It was the best time ever and, from my perspective, the series had nowhere to go but *up*.

What you hold here embraces many, to my eyes, of the reasons *why*. Great characters presented by great artists in what I hope you’ll all agree are stories to match, that take readers along a never-ending thrill ride. Best of all, fingers crossed, when you get to the end, you’ll hopefully find yourselves reacting to this collection as readers did back in the day—including me (a lot further back)—and wonder what the heck happens next and perhaps even count the days ’til the next edition comes out.

I’m thinking now, best to start with the productive creators: a couple of writers (because a chunk of this volume is an ongoing crossover with another series, *X-Factor*) and a clutch of artists representing an extraordinary collection of talent and skill.

I’m prejudiced, so let’s start with my fellow writer: Louise Simonson. Who, not so many years prior to these issues was the *editor* of *Uncanny* and one of the key people responsible for helping me craft the ongoing narrative of the series. Also, she quickly proved, once given the chance, to be one of the best writers in our industry, then and now.

Writing *X-Factor* brought with it something of a unique challenge. The team leader, Scott Summers, was married; he not only had a wife but a newborn child. While Weezie was *Uncanny*’s editor—indeed, lucky woman, this was the actual moment she was handed the title—I’d not only killed Jean but we’d pledged, as writer/book/company that this death was for real. It would not be voided, the character would not be resurrected. Comic-book life, as reader real life, would move on. And so it did, for a time.

Then Jean, courtesy of other creators, came back and Weezie and I had to find a way to make it work. This collection’s stories being pretty much how we did it. I handled Madelyne Pryor’s side, she being Scott’s wife, while Weezie told the story from Scott’s perspective.

You can judge for yourselves whether or not we succeeded.

Which brings us to the artists.

Weezie, over on *X-Factor*, of course, had the benefit of one of the supreme visual talents of our industry, then and now: Walter Simonson, about whom can be honestly said there is literally *nothing* he cannot draw—brilliantly! Want proof? Take a look through these pages.

That however is just the *X-Factor* side of things. Step over to the *X-Men* side and the talent displayed is equally impressive. The *Annual* comes courtesy of Arthur Adams (with inker Bob Wiacek), while the initial arc (featuring the *X-Men*’s extraterrestrial predator adversaries known as the Brood) is by penciler Marc Silvestri (with inker Dan Green). The next (Genosha) arc, since *Uncanny* came out bi-weekly, is split between Marc and Rick Leonardi (with P. Craig Russell and Terry Austin). The last arc (Inferno) comes courtesy of Marc once again (with Dan G. and Hilary Barta).

I’ve said this before, many times; I’ll likely keep on saying it—because it’s true. One of the constants of my creative life is the *X*-traordinary (and no, I couldn’t resist that pun) good fortune I’ve had throughout my career, and that especially when it comes to the *X*-canon and its artists. Somehow or other I’ve been able to work with among the very *very* best and this volume is proof of that, from the opening pages.

Marc’s work on the Brood arc looks great. Some scenes exciting, others kinetic, others actually humorous. But for me, the two moments that grabbed me by heart from the first are the opening scene, the close encounter between a quartet of campers and a Star-Shark that’s just fallen from the sky into New Mexico’s Rio Diablo mountains. A couple of panels is all it takes for Marc’s visuals to make this reader fall for the characters, which of course makes what happens next all the more heartbreaking. And then, once he introduces Reverend Conover and his wife, he proceeds to pretty much do it all over again—or so the reader thinks. These are just “ordinary” people, yet they come across so powerfully that this reader couldn’t help but bond with them, care for them, root for them.

Another, and far more significant, element comes courtesy of the *X*-canon graphic novel *God Loves, Man Kills*. The minister presented therein, William Stryker, was the *X-Men*’s adversary,

doing what he thought were the right things for the right reasons. Some, including major media ministers such as the late Reverend Pat Robertson, felt this was an unfair presentation of both the faith and its representatives. In a very real sense, the Reverend William Conover and his Glory Day Crusade represent *my* view of what true faith represents. The Reverend Conover has a far more generous opinion of mutants and their position in the firmament.

Throughout the issues he's responsible for, Marc takes the readers on a wonderful visual ride. Remember, back in those days, stories came to life courtesy of *plots*, then pencils, then scripts, rather than full scripts as they are today. The writer's responsibility was to give the penciler the overall events of the issue, thereby passing on to the penciler the responsibility of dividing that "lump" into the twenty-some subordinate pages and those pages into the individual panels. The writer then crafts the final script from the plot notes synergized with the artwork. The alternative is for the writer to divide the plot and script into the subordinate twenty-some pages and leave the design of those pages to the penciler. Ideally, if the penciler has a better way of telling the story, he and the writer can compare notes and move on from there. It's a fluid collaboration, the ultimate idea being to find the best way to tell the visual story.

In this collection, you find among the very best at doing that.

Beside Arthur and Marc, there's Rick Leonardi, someone whose talent and skill has always merited much higher stature in the modern industry. If you want to know why, simply look at the two issues presented here, wherein he helps bring to visual life both the island and the society of Gensosha. I wasn't being subtle: Genosha was my X-world equivalent of apartheid South Africa to the max. Rick—and Marc—brought that presentation so much more visually alive.

The thing about the X-canon that makes it so much fun for me is that there are absolutely *no* limitations. I can do drama, I can do fun. I can send characters up against the most formidable of adversaries, I can have them go up against one another in a backyard baseball game—and when the ball gets hit a little *too* high, have Rogue leave a lipstick kiss on the window of the President's office aboard Air Force One as it passes by a handful of miles overhead. I can do stories set in downtown Manhattan, the Savage Land or the far side of outer space, in this dimension or another just down the omniversal road. To a far greater extent than pretty much every other book in modern comics, anything goes.

Which is as it should be. The X-Men are a team and while that whole is indeed far greater than the sum of its individual parts, those individual parts are in and of themselves pretty impressive, in terms of both abilities and character.

And as with the original "Dark Phoenix" saga, few things epitomize this more than "Inferno," the conclusion to the tragedy of Madelyne Pryor.

In drama—and in particular, "melodrama"—the conflict is defined by the adversary, in this case a villain known only as Mr. Sinister.

The simplest word to describe him is "monster," partly by his inhuman features but mostly because of what he does. He is one of the X-team's most unforgivably malicious opponents, in many ways their equivalent of the Fantastic Four's Doctor Doom. Magneto may be the X-canon's signature foe but his actions derive from a historical tragedy; his goal—of protecting mutantkind and securing them hegemony over this planet—however misguided his means of achieving it, might well be considered legitimate. Sinister is nothing like that.

For him, people are simply toys. He loves "playing" with them, caring not a whit that he's

manipulating the fates of real people. They're simply tools, to be worked as he pleases, all in deference to his goal, the achievement of ultimate power.

One such tool is a woman named Madelyne Pryor, who once upon a time was the wife of Scott Summers and the mother of their child, Nathan.

Only it turns out that Madelyne isn't quite who she seems. (Spoiler!) She is a clone of Jean Grey, crafted by Sinister—only for the first time in his career, something goes very wrong. His "toy" refuses to do as told, to play the game crafted for her by him. And when he tries to eliminate her, she escapes his grasp.

Feeling abandoned and betrayed by everyone she once held dear, Madelyne falls prey to her darkest side; she vows vengeance. And when one has access to the power of the Phoenix, one of the primal forces of existence itself, that is not a threat to be taken lightly.

If nothing else, this arc exemplifies the classic rubric of actions having consequences. Far before these arcs began, Jean Grey sacrificed herself in a desperate attempt to save her friends. In doing so, she drew the attention of the Phoenix. They became one. As Phoenix, Jean was instrumental in saving the known universe from annihilation at the hands of the mad Shi'ar emperor. But Jean was a human woman, who now had access to the powers of creation itself. For all those good intentions—of both the young woman herself and the celestial entity who strove to save her—*neither* could handle the consequences of that original act. And thusly, Phoenix evolved into *Dark* Phoenix.

The hero became its polar opposite, the savior of life become harbinger of death. Sinister hopes to co-opt that power for himself. He, like Mastermind in "Dark Phoenix" before him, sorely underestimated both the power and the fury of his adversary.

The original happy ending to Scott's story became—in Inferno's final ending, very much like the original story itself—a classic tragedy. So many good intentions, a clutch of proven heroes, a villain, conflicts galore with victories to match and yet the story ends with broken hearts. The heroes lose the one battle that truly matters.

As happens in real life.

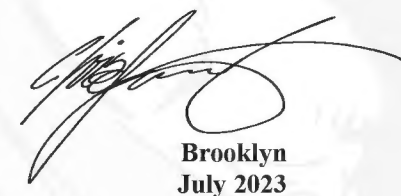
To me, that's what has always made the X-Canon special: this capacity to surprise the readers—and truth to tell, the writer as well. That's what stories should do, take everyone for a ride whose outcome is never as predictable as we all presume. And whose journey *to* that outcome keeps readers—and again, writers—on the edge of their seats.

I so wanted Scott and Madelyne and Nathan to have a happy ending.

Herein's what happened instead.

The people responsible did their very best; the hope is that you agree.

And wait'll you see what happens next.



Brooklyn
July 2023

MARVEL

THE UNCANNY

X-MEN

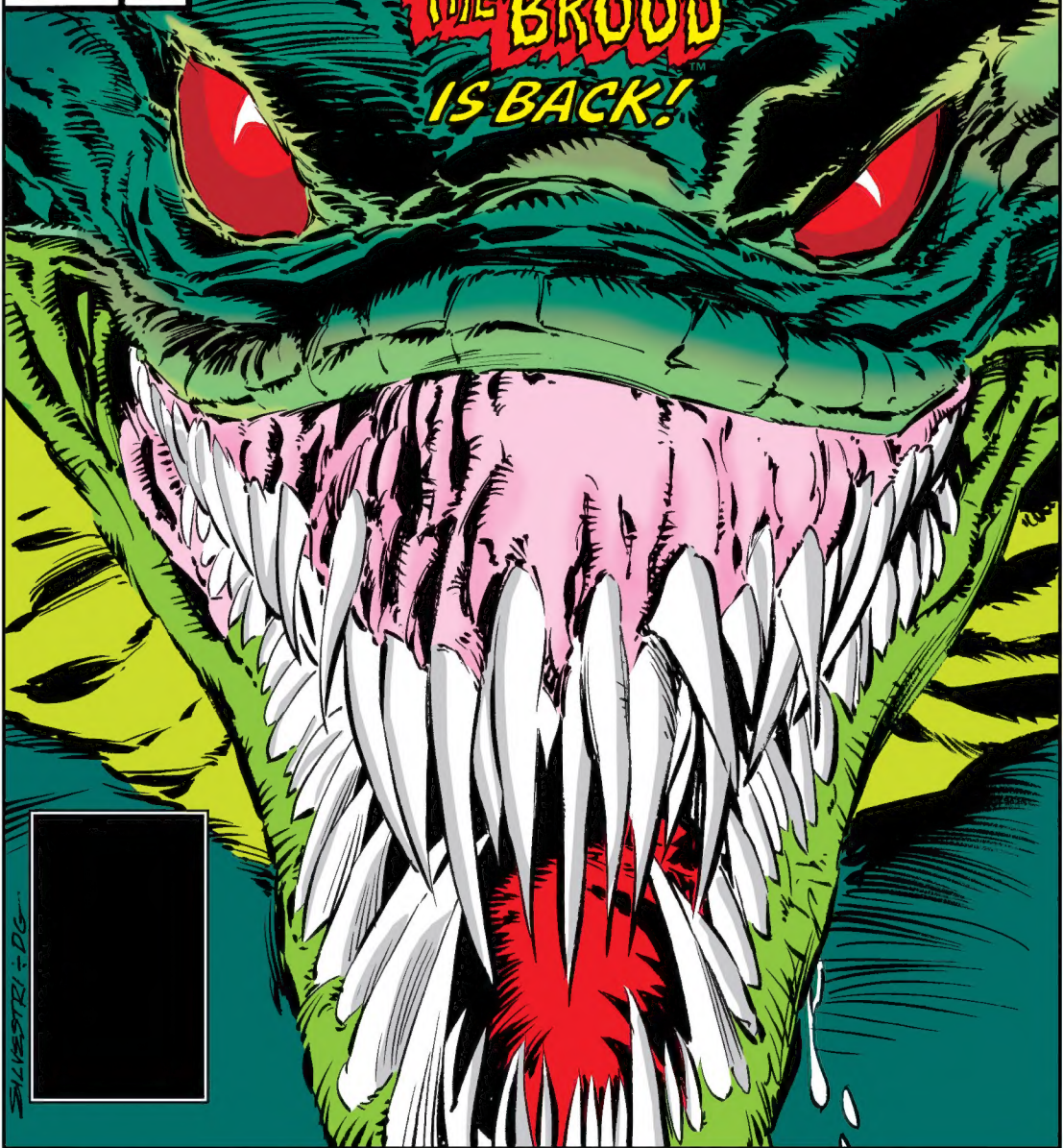


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232
AUG
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APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

THE BROOD
IS BACK!



SILVESTRI + DE

...IN UPSTATE
NEW YORK...

...STORM AND WOLVERINE
FIGHT FOR THEIR LIVES
AGAINST A TRIO OF WORLD
WAR II SUPER HEROES
TURNED MURDERING
VIGILANTES...

...WHILE...



...IN EDINBURGH,
SCOTLAND...

...THEIR FELLOW X-MEN--
LONGSHOT, ROGUE,
PSYLOCKE AND DAZZLER
PIT STRENGTH AND SKILL
AGAINST ONE OF THE
TEAM'S OLDEST, MOST
POWERFUL FOES:

...JUGGERNAUT...

...WHILE...



NOT SO
LONG
AGO...

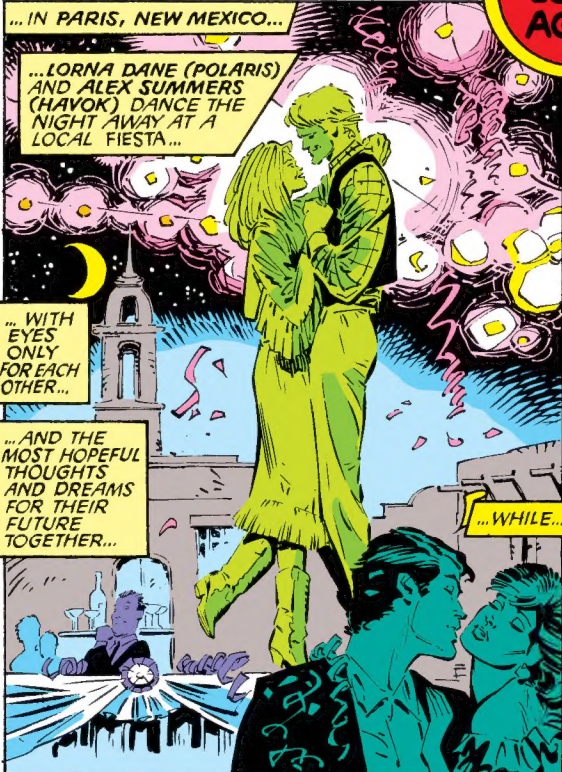
...IN PARIS, NEW MEXICO...

...LORNA DANE (POLARIS)
AND ALEX SUMMERS
(HAYOK) DANCE THE
NIGHT AWAY AT A
LOCAL FIESTA...

... WITH
EYES
ONLY
FOR EACH
OTHER...

...AND THE
MOST HOPEFUL
THOUGHTS
AND DREAMS
FOR THEIR
FUTURE
TOGETHER...

...WHILE...



...IN THE RIO DIABLO MOUNTAINS
THAT LINE THE HORIZON SOUTH
AND WEST OF PARIS...

IS THIS
PARADISE,
CRUISERS, OR
WHAT?

GOTTA
ADMIT,
SALLY, THIS
IS BEAUTIFUL
COUNTRY.

DARN
STRAIGHT.

MY JOB'D
DRIVE ME
CRAZY...

... IF I DIDN'T HAVE
PLACES LIKE THIS CLOSE
AT HAND TO ESCAPE TO.



EARTH FALL

A STAN LEE PRESENTATION,
STARRING THE UNCANNY X-MEN

BUT THEN--

-- WITH THE ROAR
OF MOUNTAINS
CRUMBLING AND A
LIGHT LIKE THE DAWN
OF ARMAGEDDON...

...THE EVENING'S
SERENITY IS
SUDDENLY,
IRREPARABLY
SHATTERED!

LOOK!

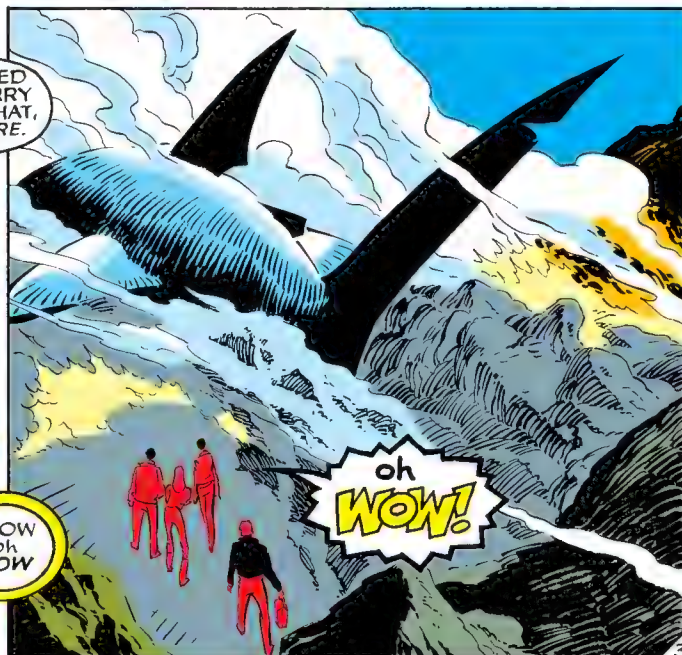
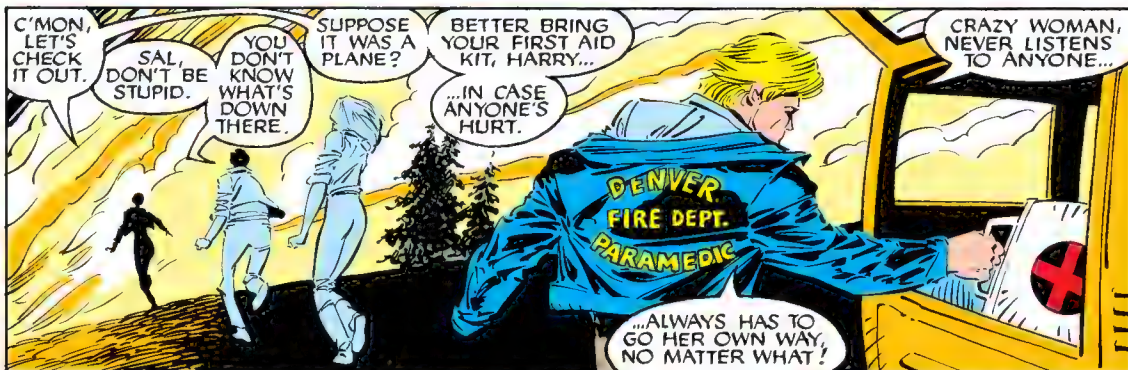
UP IN
THE
SKY!!

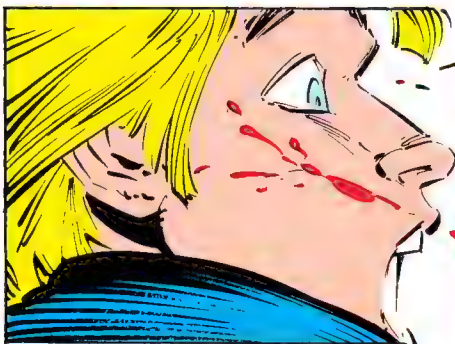
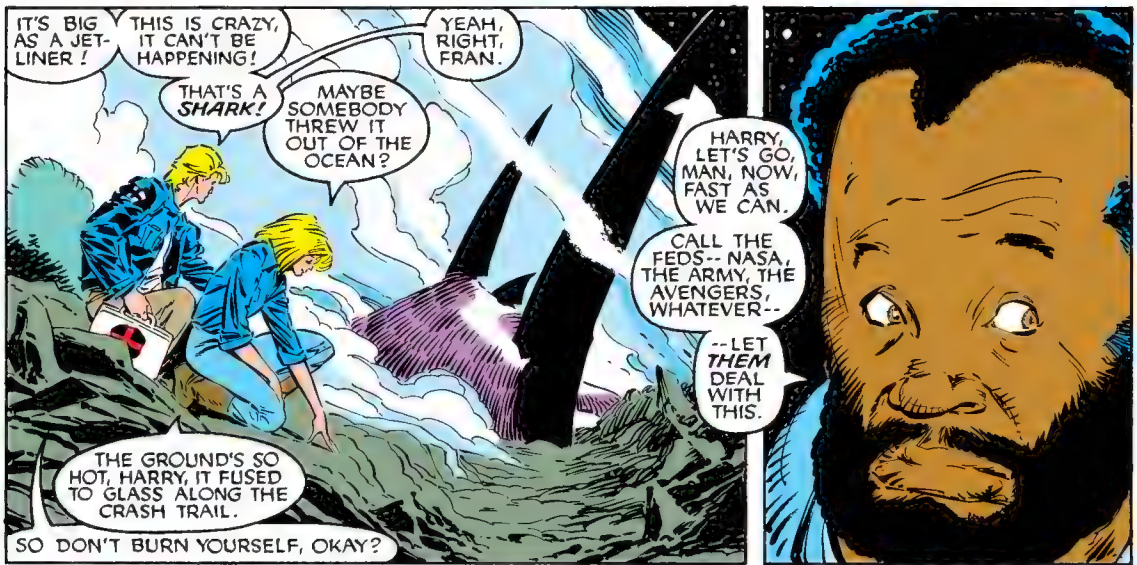
WHAT THE
DEVIL--?!

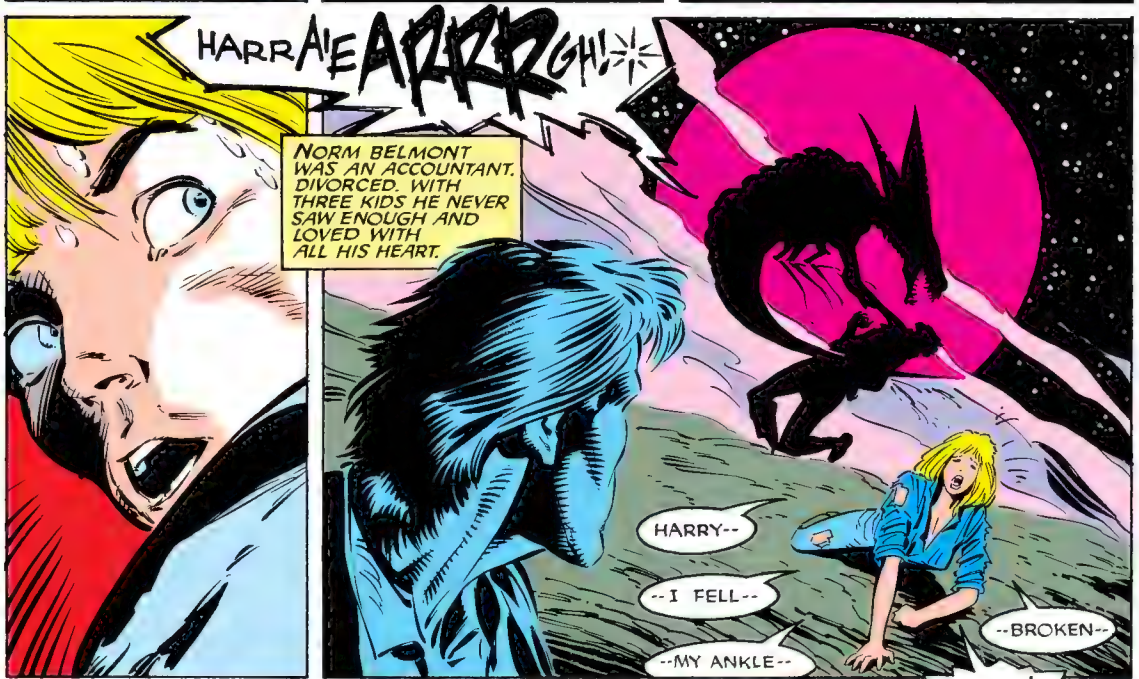
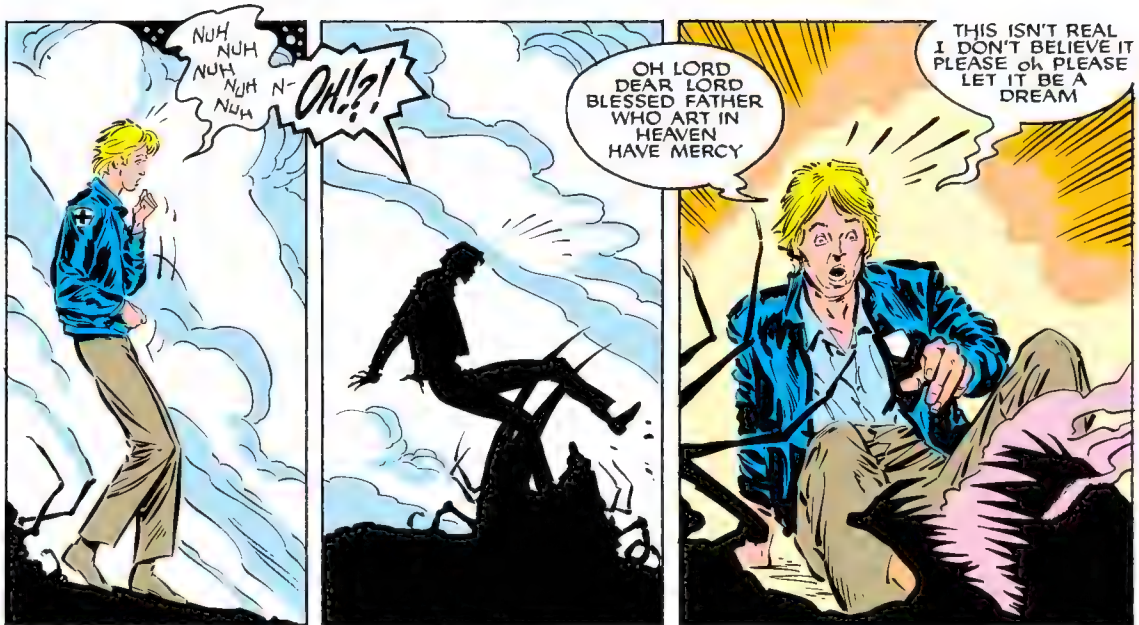
A
METEOR--
--HEADING
RIGHT
FOR US!!

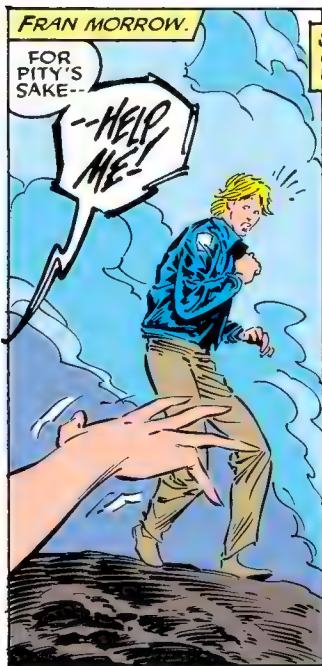
EVERYONE--
FIND COVER--
BEFORE IT HITS!

CHRIS CLAREMONT
WRITER
MARC SILVESTRI
PENCILER
DAN GREEN
INKER
GLYNIS OLIVER
COLORIST
TOM ORZECOWSKI
LETTERER
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& BOB HARRAS
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TOM DeFALCO
EDITOR IN CHIEF





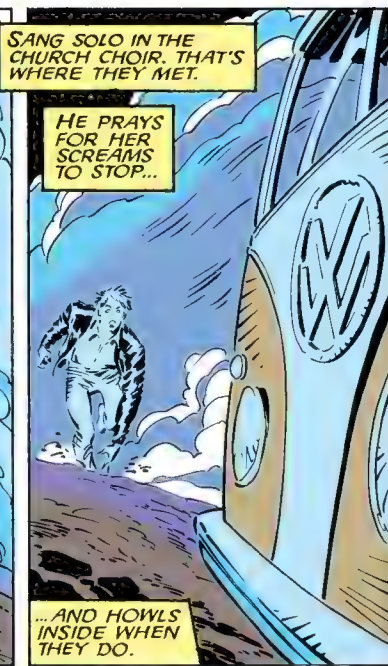




FRAN MORROW.

FOR
PITY'S
SAKE--

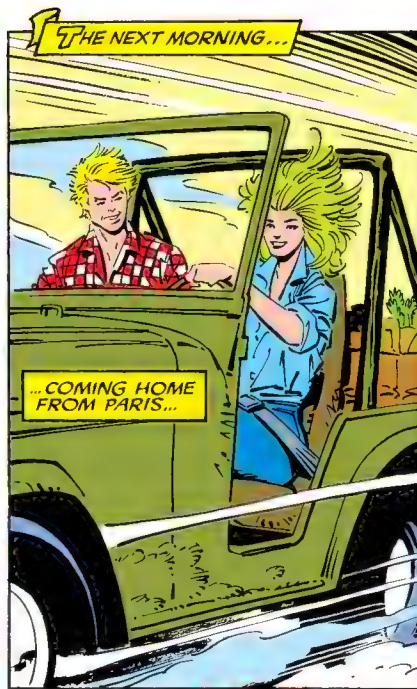
--HELP
ME--



SANG SOLO IN THE
CHURCH CHOIR. THAT'S
WHERE THEY MET.

HE PRAYS
FOR HER
SCREAMS
TO STOP...

...AND HOWLS
INSIDE WHEN
THEY DO.



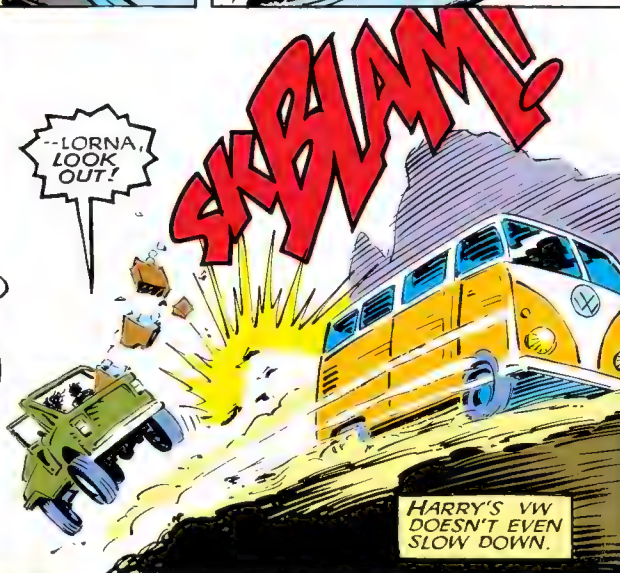
THE NEXT MORNING...

...COMING HOME
FROM PARIS...



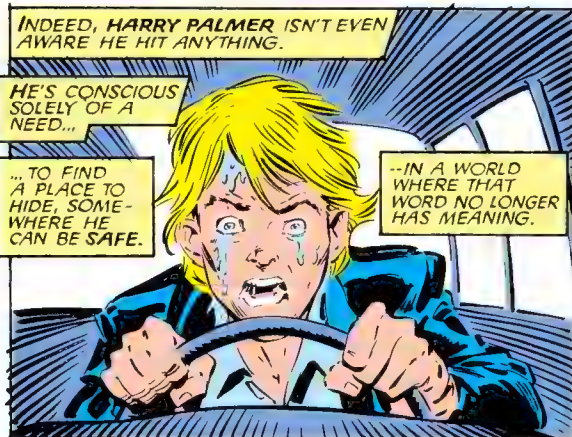
HOLY--?!

IS THAT
CLOWN
DRUNK OR
CRAZY
OR--?



--LORNA,
LOOK
OUT!

HARRY'S VW
DOESN'T EVEN
SLOW DOWN.

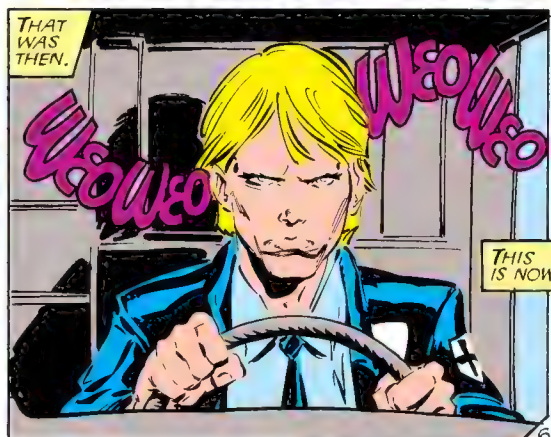


INDEED, HARRY PALMER ISN'T EVEN
AWARE HE HIT ANYTHING.

HE'S CONSCIOUS
SOLELY OF A
NEED...

...TO FIND
A PLACE TO
HIDE, SOME-
WHERE HE
CAN BE SAFE.

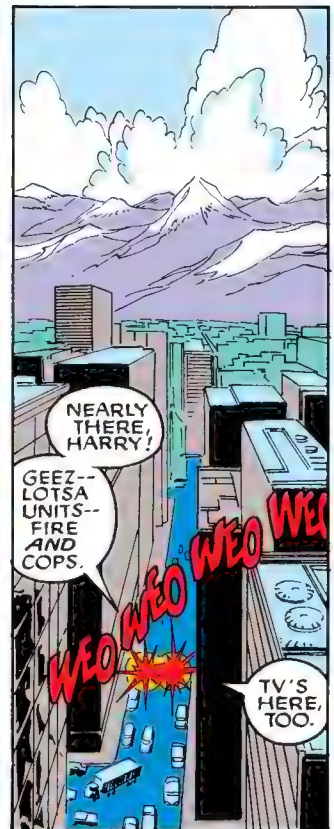
--IN A WORLD
WHERE THAT
WORD NO LONGER
HAS MEANING.

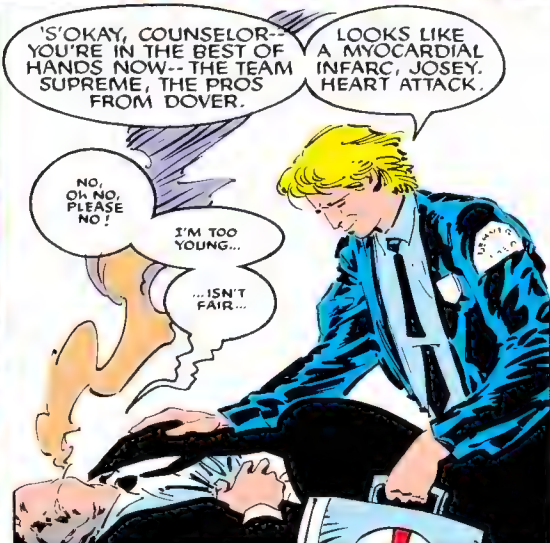
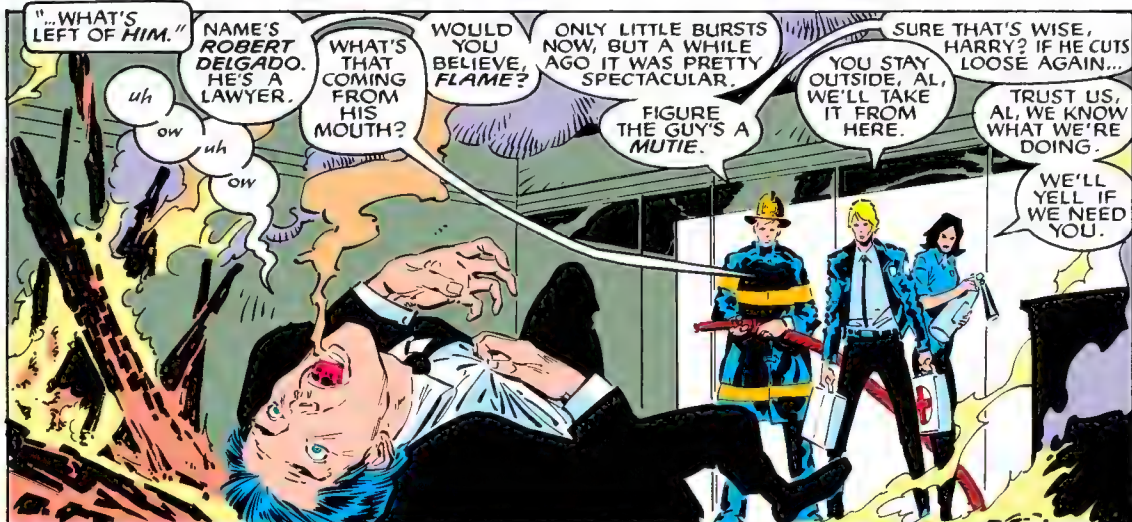


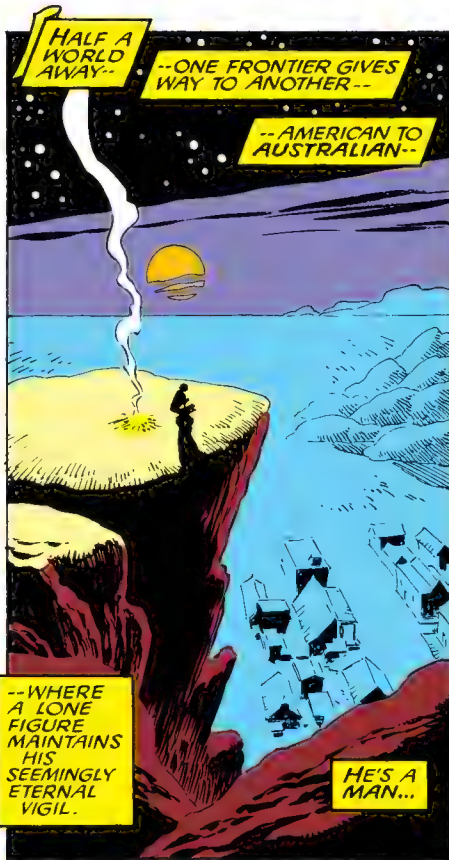
THAT
WAS
THEN.

WOO WOO WOO WOO WOO

THIS
IS NOW.







HALF A
WORLD
AWAY--

--ONE FRONTIER GIVES
WAY TO ANOTHER--

--AMERICAN TO
AUSTRALIAN--

--WHERE
A LONE
FIGURE
MAINTAINS
HIS
SEEMINGLY
ETERNAL
VIGIL.

HE'S A
MAN...

... ALTHOUGH HE SEEMS AS MUCH
A PART OF THE ELEMENTAL
LANDSCAPE AS THE AGE-OLD
ROCK HE SITS UPON.

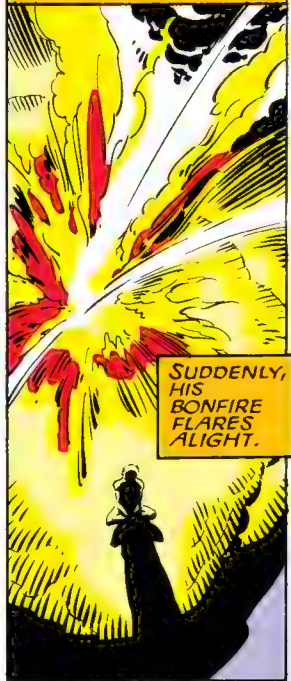
HIS TRUE NAME IS
KNOWN TO NONE
BUT HIM...



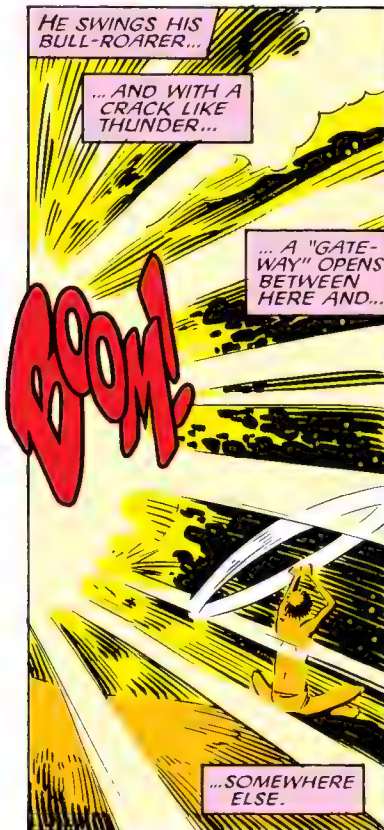
... BUT HE HAS ANOTHER,
GIVEN HIM BY THE
STRANGERS WHO FIRST
CAME TO THIS SACRED
PLACE.

IT IS
GATEWAY.

THOSE INTRUDERS WERE
ENEMIES AND HE SERVED
THEM BECAUSE HE HAD
NO CHOICE. THE ONES
WHO REPLACED THEM,
HOWEVER, WHO DWELL
HERE NOW, HAVE EARNED
HIS FRIENDSHIP.



SUDDENLY,
HIS
BONFIRE
FLARES
ALIGHT.

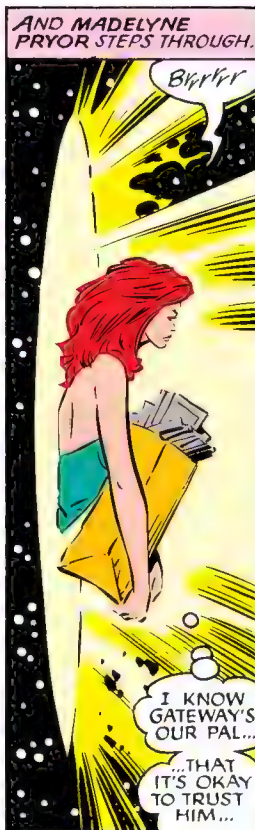


HE SWINGS HIS
BULL-ROARER...

... AND WITH A
CRACK LIKE
THUNDER...

... A "GATE-
WAY" OPENS
BETWEEN
HERE AND...

... SOMEWHERE
ELSE.



AND MADELYNE
PRYOR STEPS THROUGH.

Bigger

I KNOW
GATEWAY'S
OUR PAL...

...THAT
IT'S OKAY
TO TRUST
HIM...

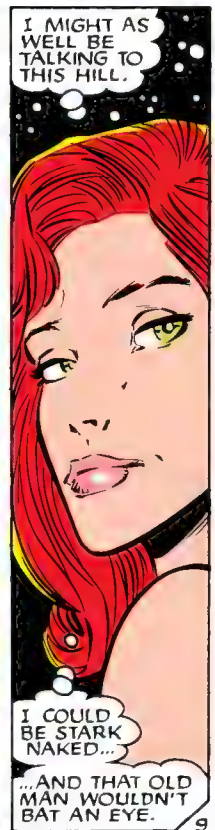


...BUT I'M A PILOT, I'D
MUCH RATHER FLY
FROM PLACE TO PLACE...

...THAN BE
TELEPORTED.

...oh,
WHAT'S
THE
USE!

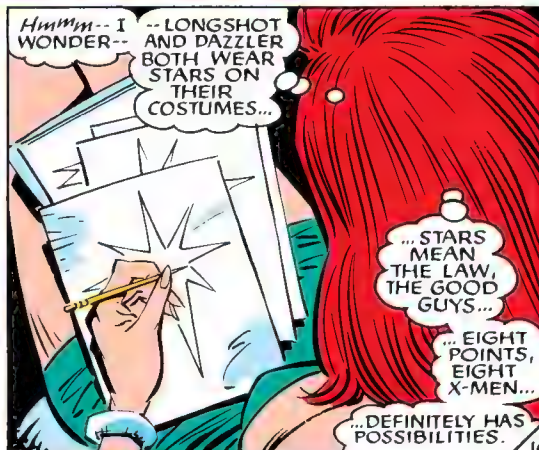
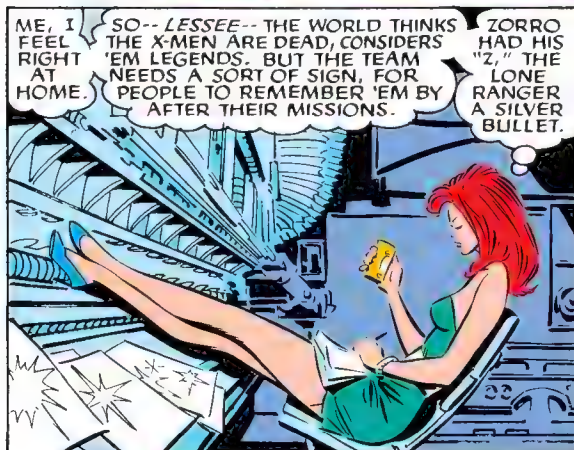
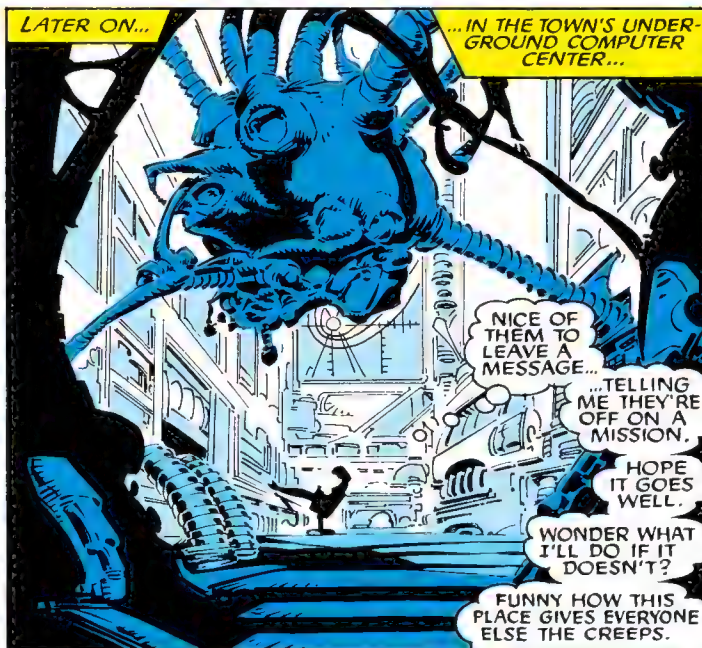
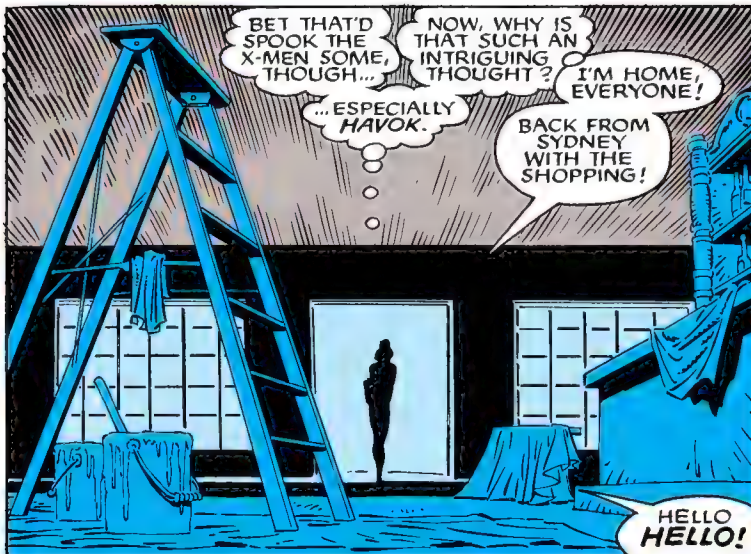
THANK
YOU, SIR,
FOR THE
TRIP...

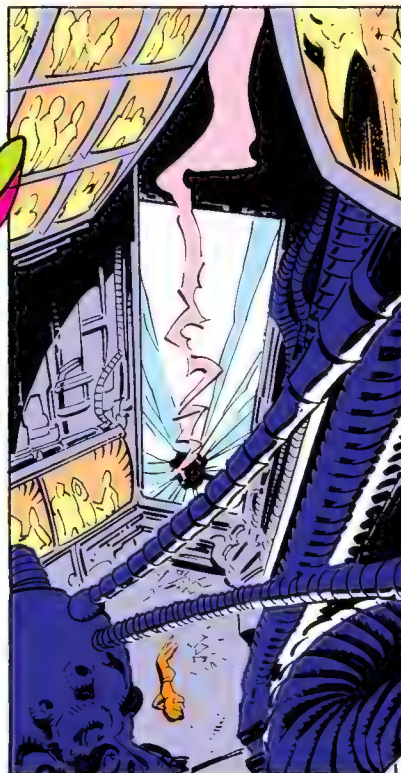
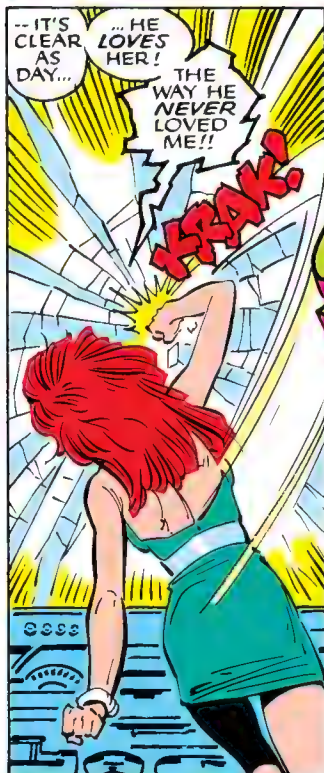
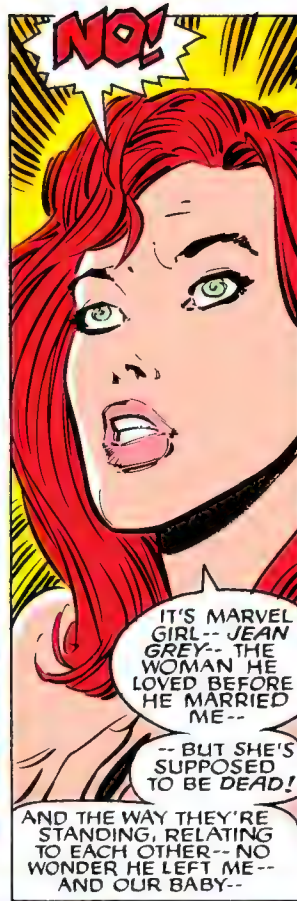
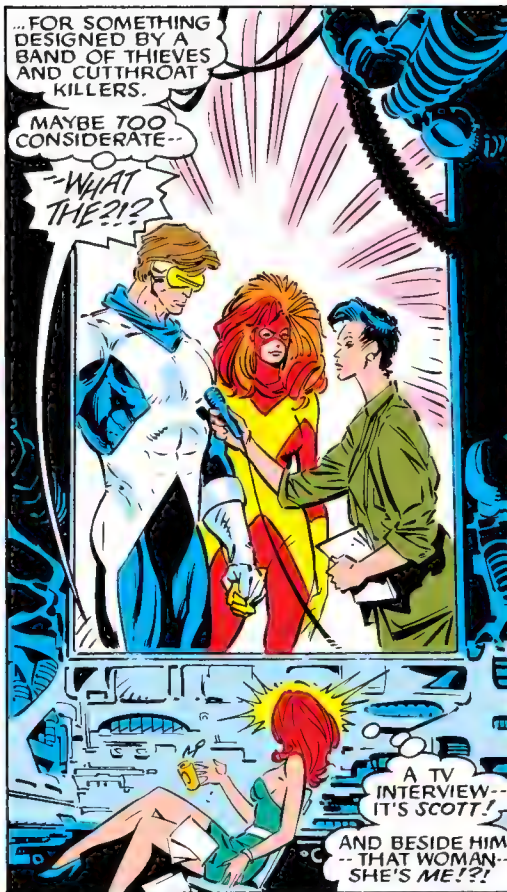


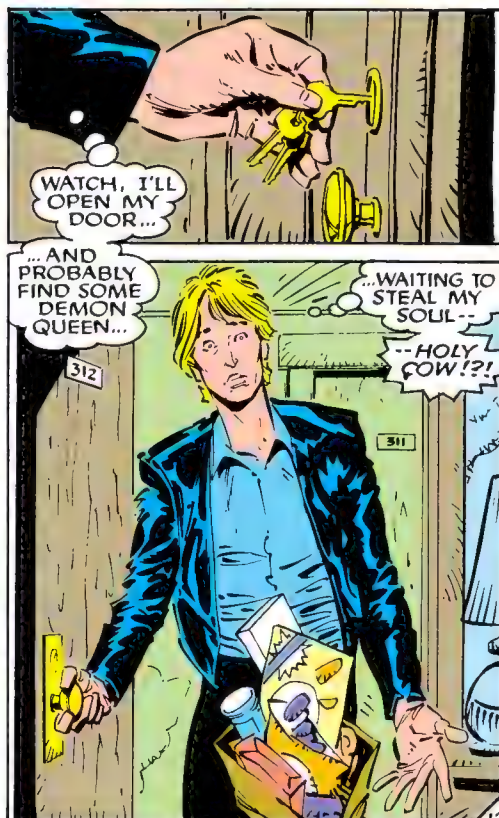
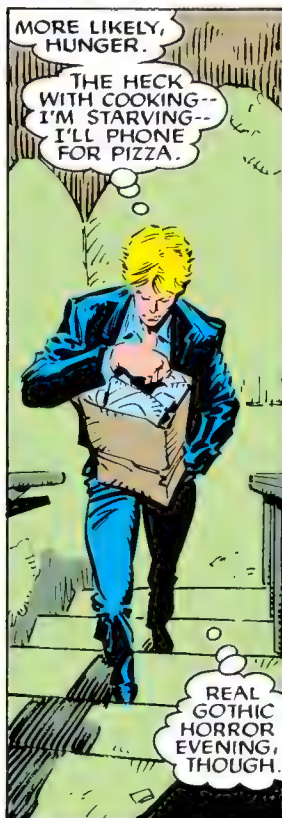
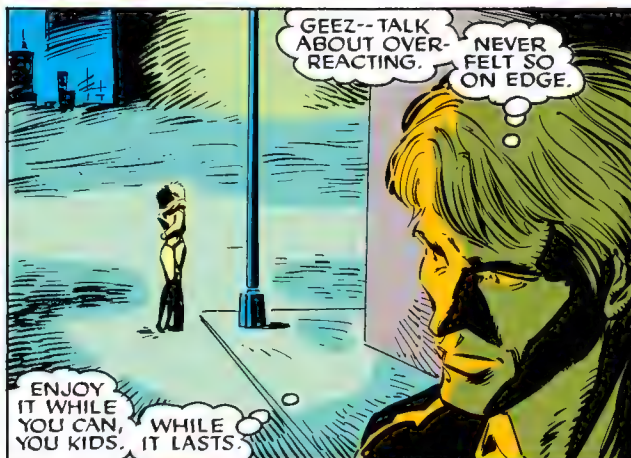
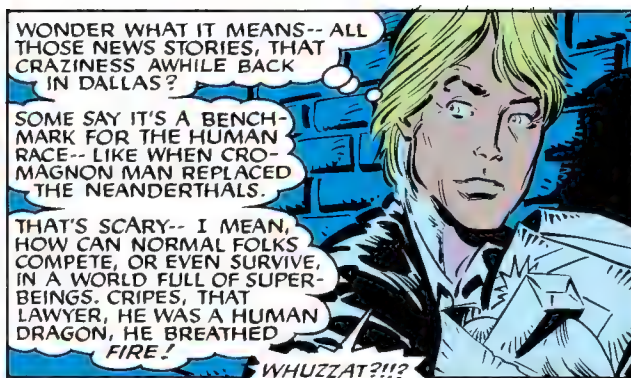
I MIGHT AS
WELL BE
TALKING TO
THIS HILL.

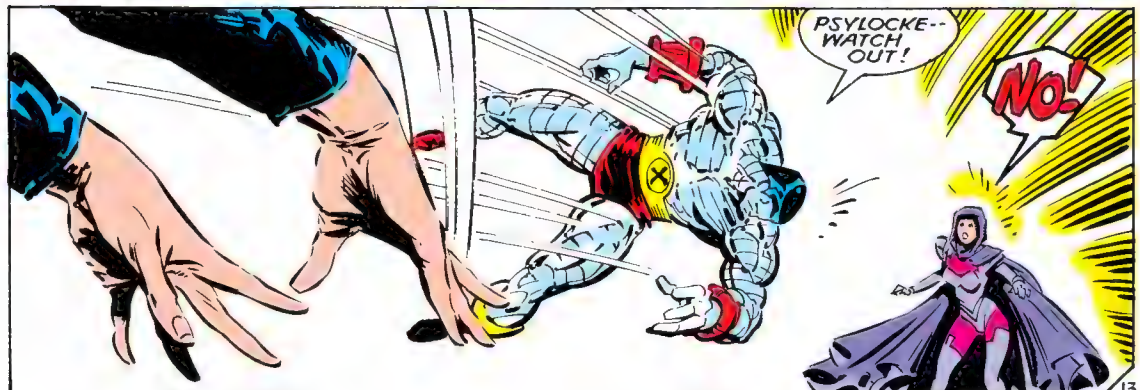
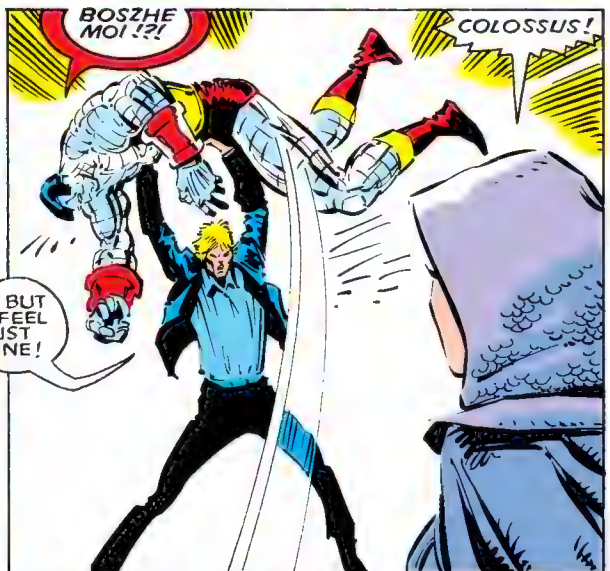
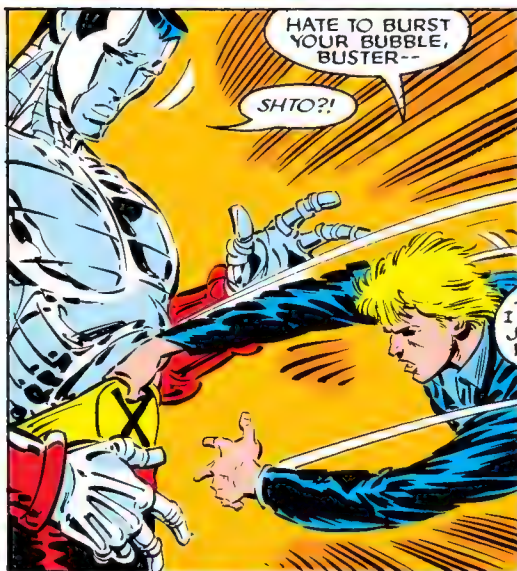
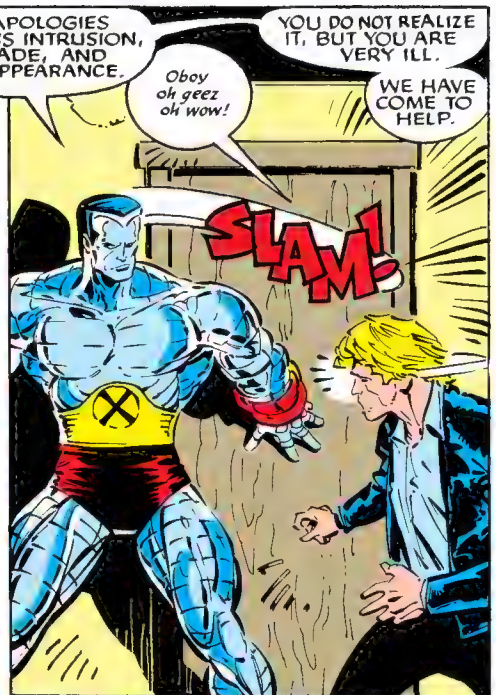
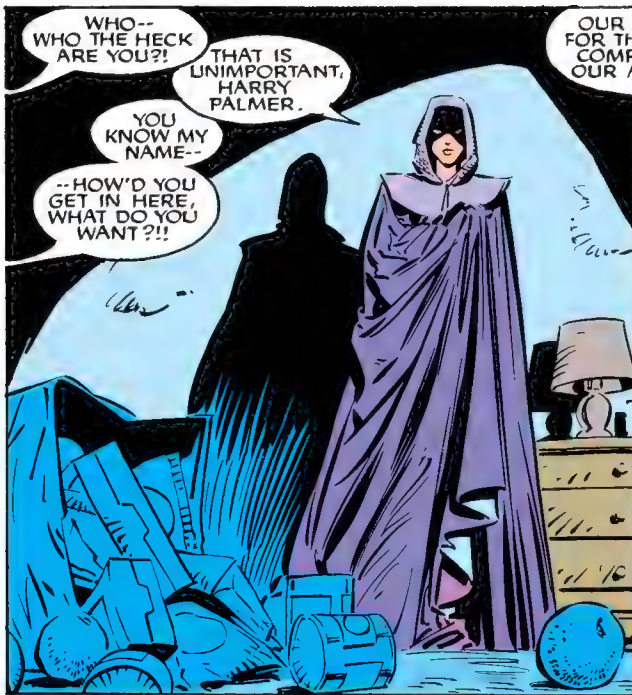
I COULD
BE STARK
NAKED...

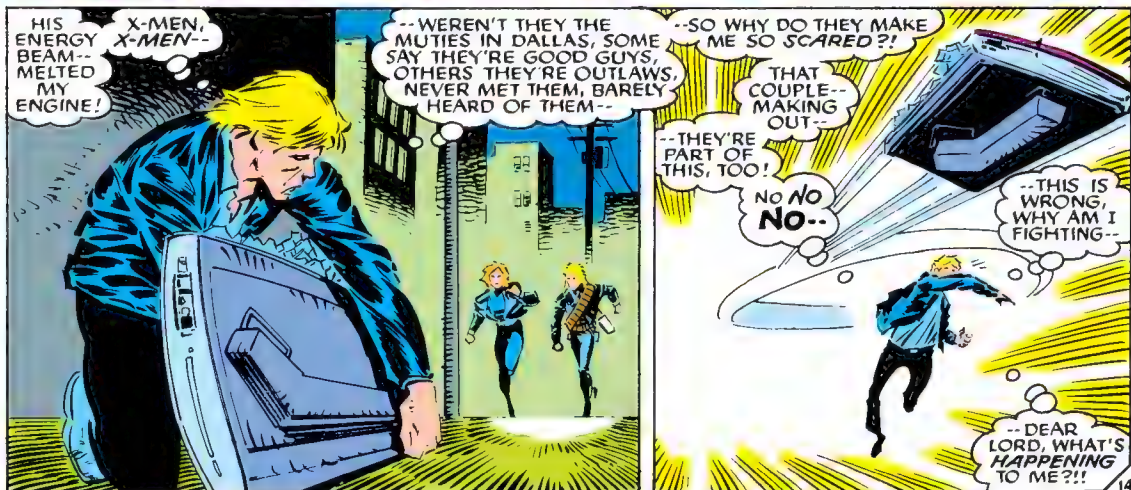
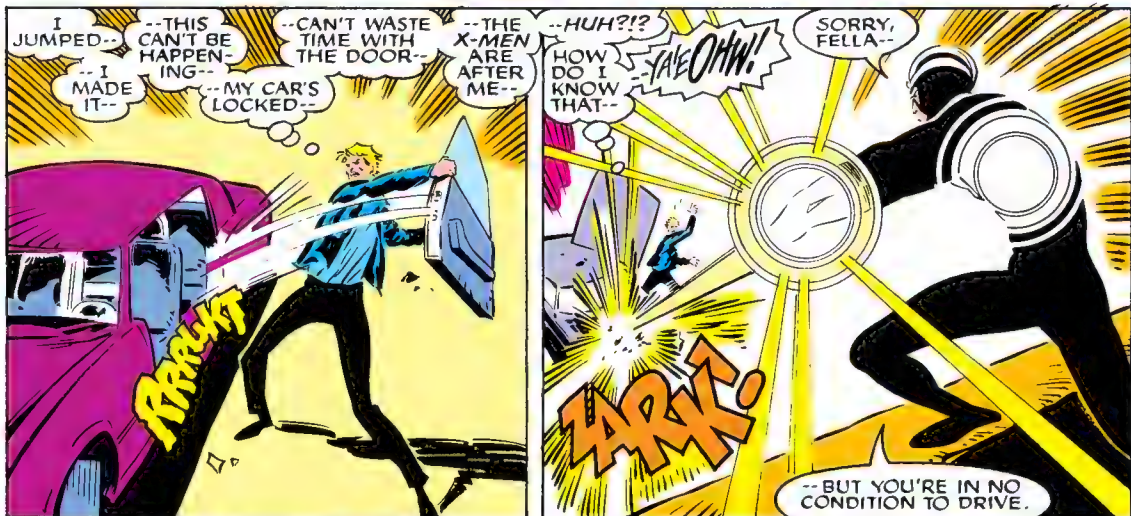
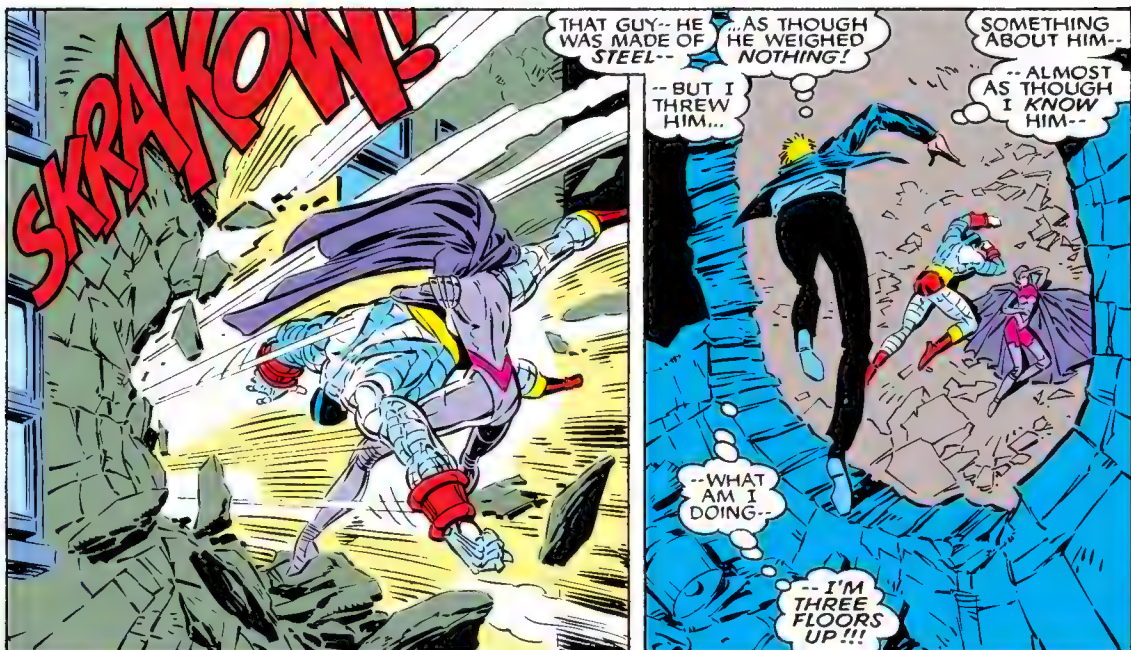
...AND THAT OLD
MAN WOULDN'T
BAT AN EYE.

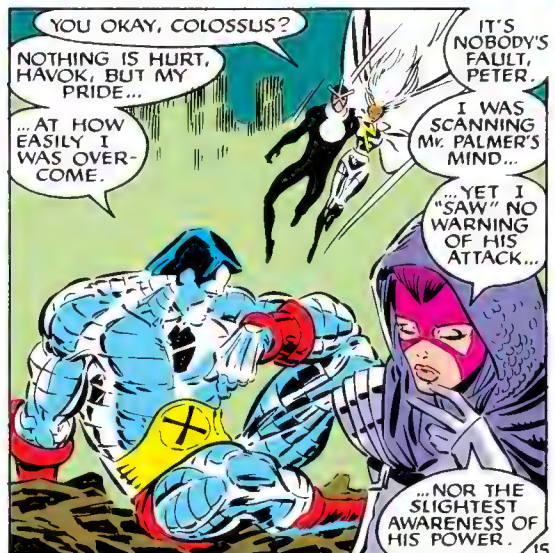
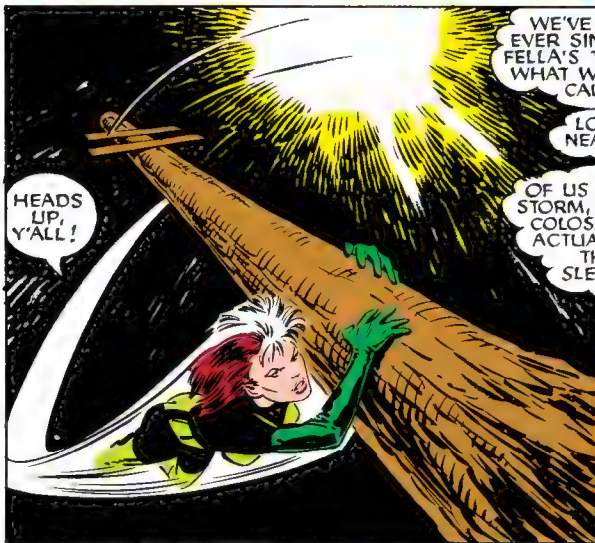
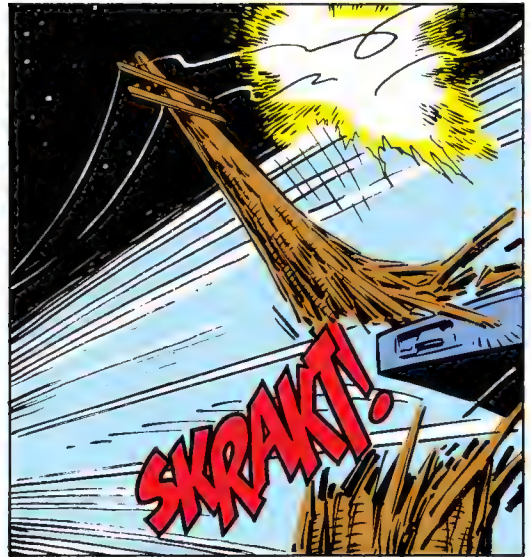














YOU GOT SLAMMED PRETTY HARD, PSYLOCKE--!

NOT TO MENTION THAT FALL!

FORTUNATE I DECIDED TO EXCHANGE MY OLD COSTUME...
...FOR THIS SUIT OF ARMOR.

IT ABSORBED THE BRUNT OF BOTH IMPACTS.

IS Mr. PALMER A MUTANT, STORM, LIKE US?

NORMAL EARTH PEOPLE AREN'T USUALLY SO STRONG.

THAT'S THE BROOD IN HIM.



IF SO WOLVERINE, THE MAN HAS NO KNOWLEDGE OF IT.

MY FRIENDS-- COULD LONGSHOT BE RIGHT? ARE WE MAKING A TERRIBLE MISTAKE, BY HOUNDING AN INNOCENT MAN?

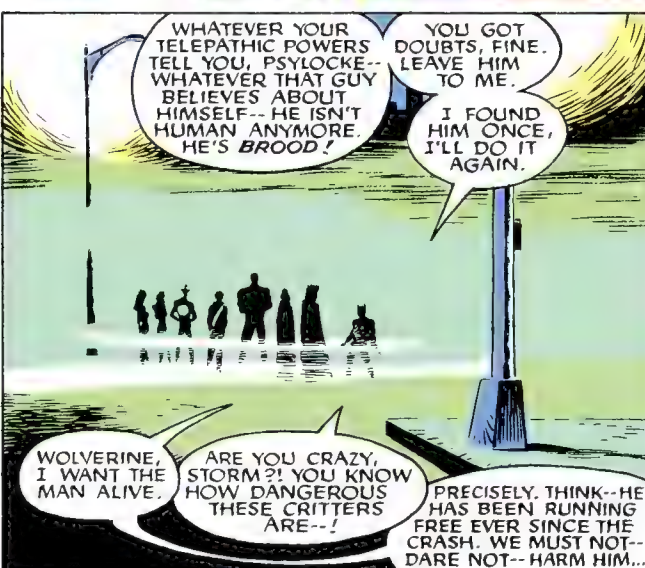
TRUST ME, DARLIN'.



PALMER WAS INFECTED AT THE CRASH SITE IN NEW MEXICO-- I SPOTTED THAT THE MOMENT I TAGGED HIS SCENT.

AN OLD SCENT, WOLVERINE. CAN YOU TRULY BE CERTAIN?

I'M CERTAIN.



WHATEVER YOUR TELEPATHIC POWERS TELL YOU, PSYLOCKE-- WHATEVER THAT GUY BELIEVES ABOUT HIMSELF-- HE ISN'T HUMAN ANYMORE. HE'S BROOD!

YOU GOT DOUBTS, FINE. LEAVE HIM TO ME.

I FOUND HIM ONCE, I'LL DO IT AGAIN.

WOLVERINE, I WANT THE MAN ALIVE.

ARE YOU CRAZY, STORM?! YOU KNOW HOW DANGEROUS THESE CRITTERS ARE--!

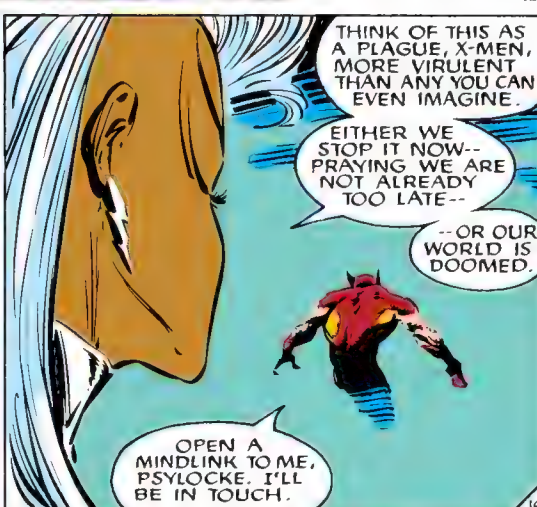
PRECISELY. THINK--HE HAS BEEN RUNNING FREE EVER SINCE THE CRASH. WE MUST NOT-- DARE NOT-- HARM HIM...



...UNTIL WE HAVE LEARNED IF HE HAS IMPLANTED ANY OTHERS WITH BROOD EGGS...

...AND, IF SO, WHO THEY ARE.

THEN, WE WILL DEAL WITH THEM ALL.

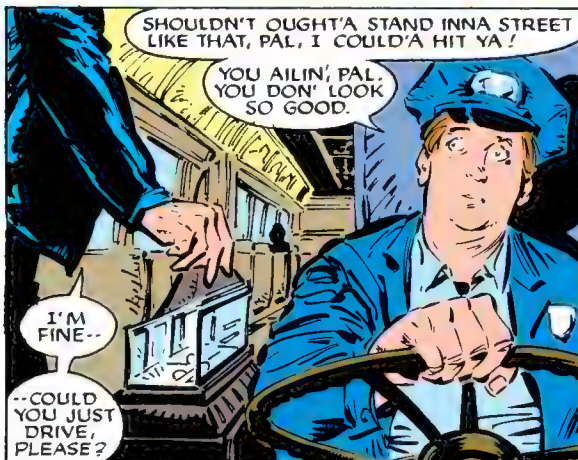
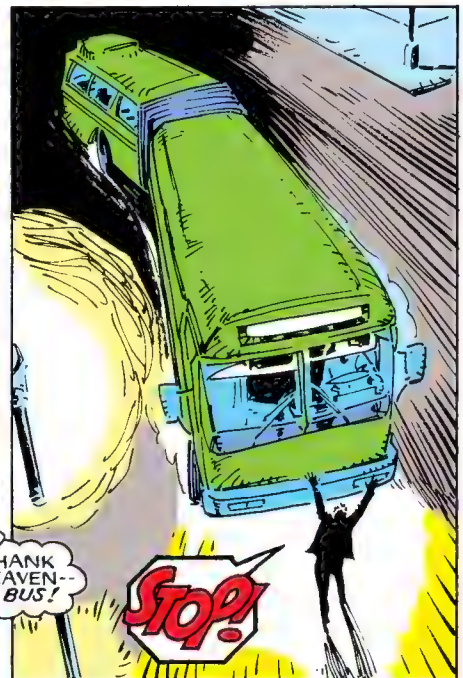
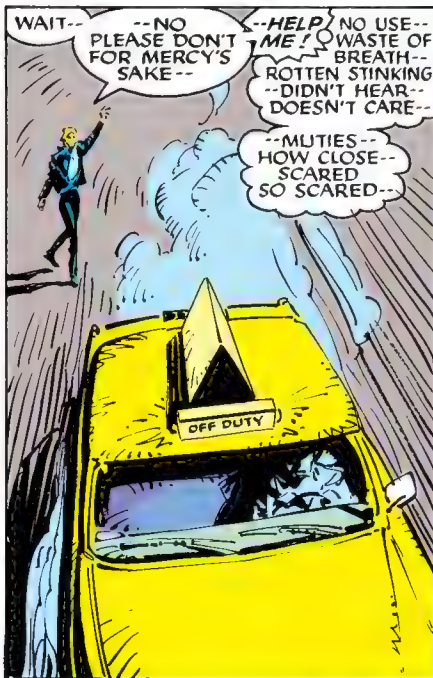
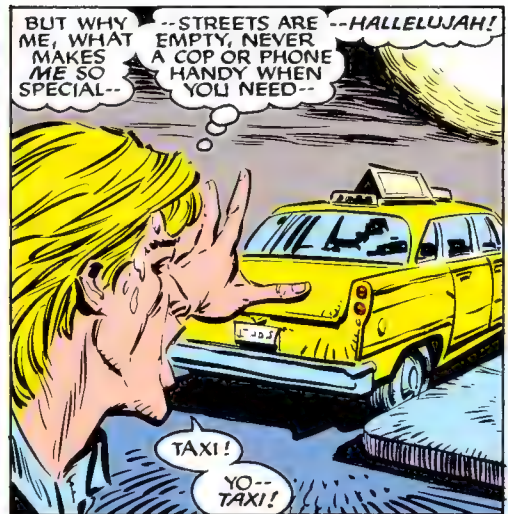
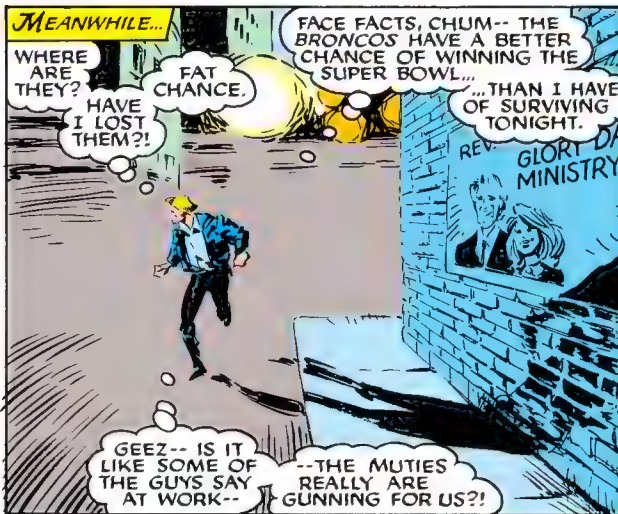


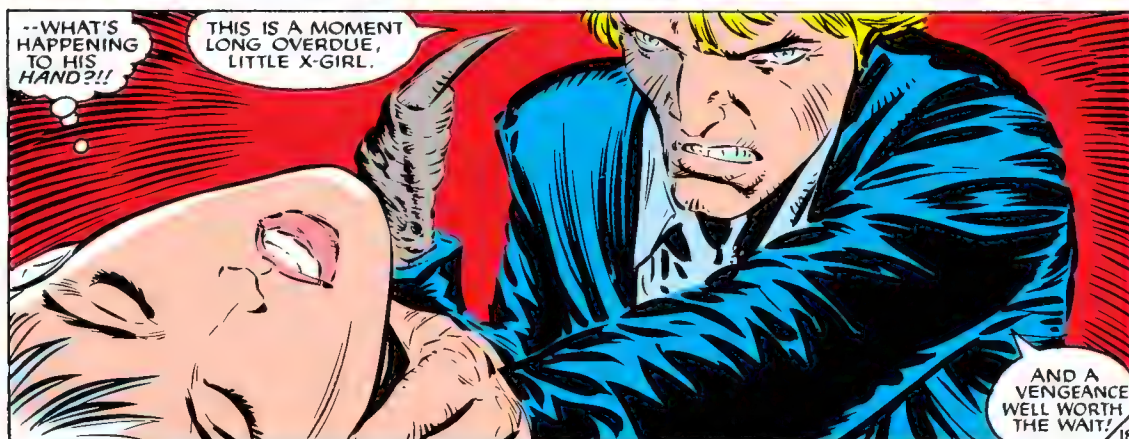
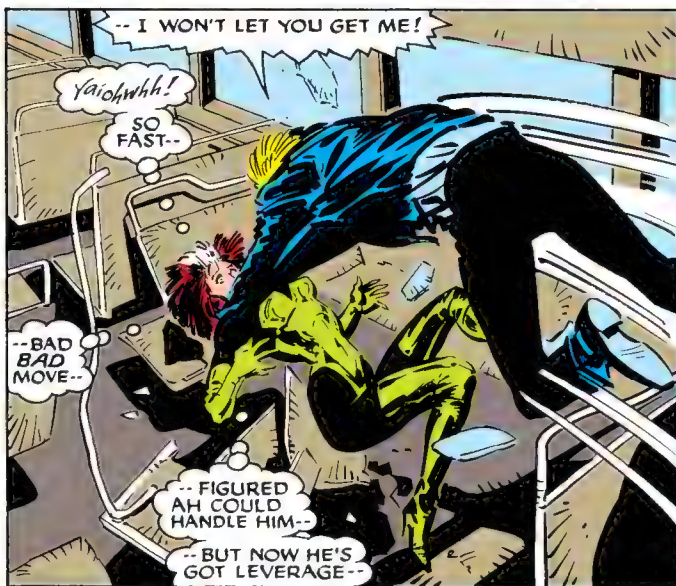
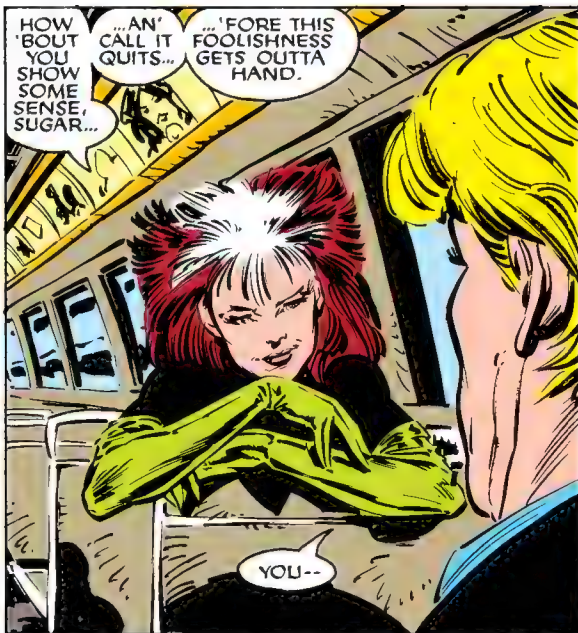
THINK OF THIS AS A PLAGUE, X-MEN, MORE VIRULENT THAN ANY YOU CAN EVEN IMAGINE.

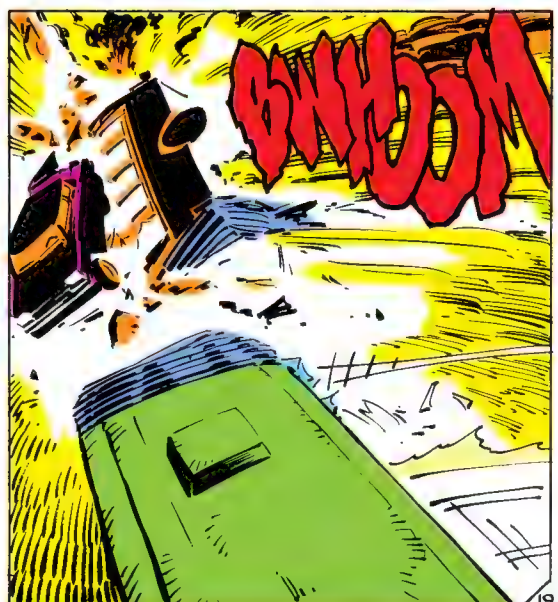
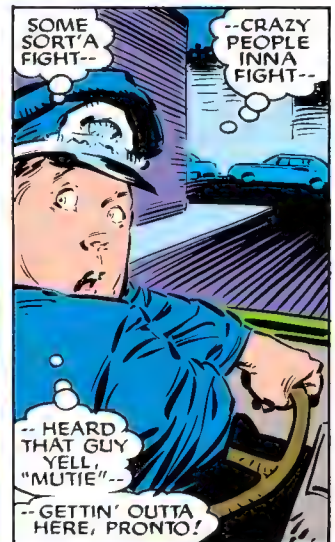
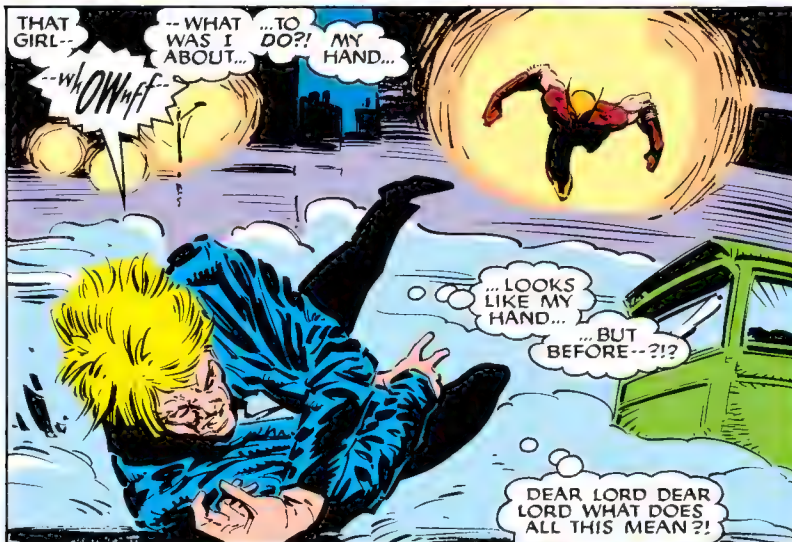
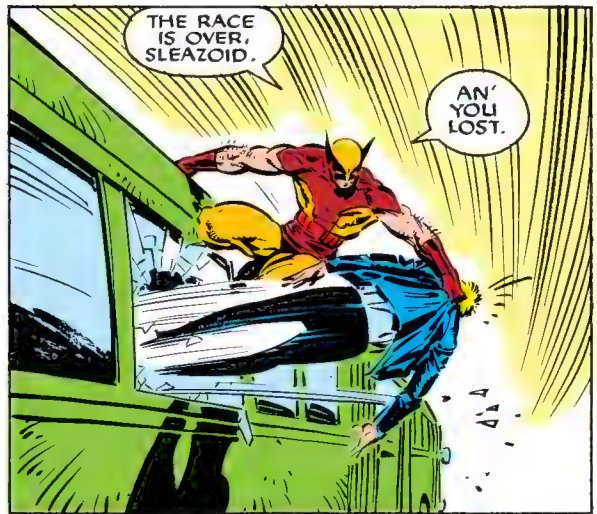
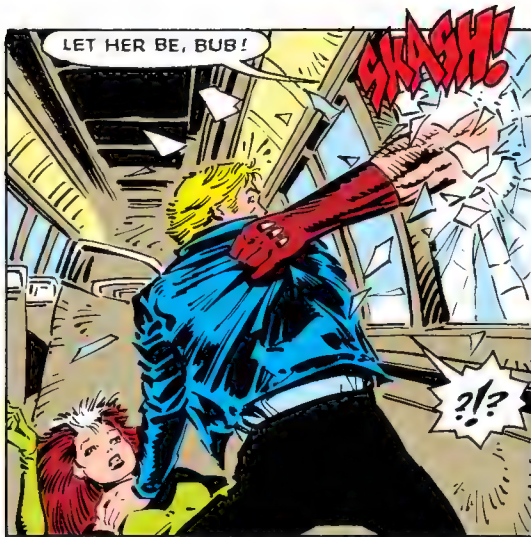
EITHER WE STOP IT NOW-- PRAYING WE ARE NOT ALREADY TOO LATE--

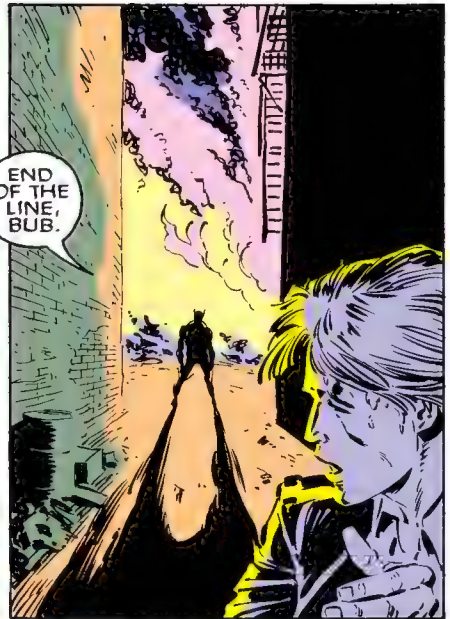
--OR OUR WORLD IS DOOMED.

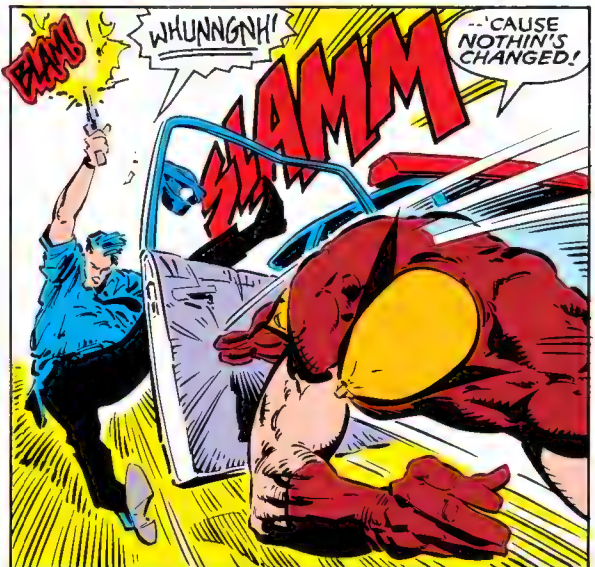
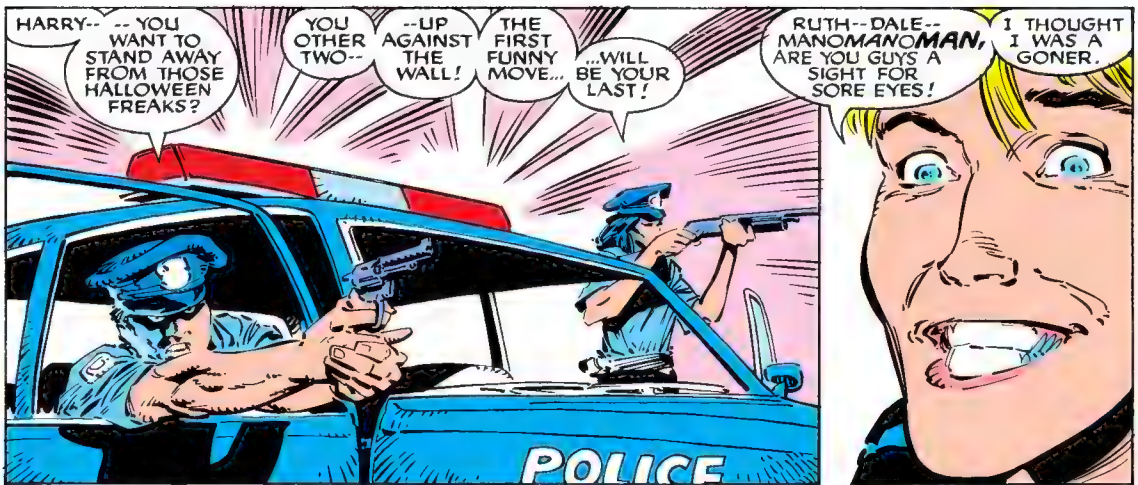
OPEN A MINDLINK TO ME, PSYLOCKE. I'LL BE IN TOUCH.

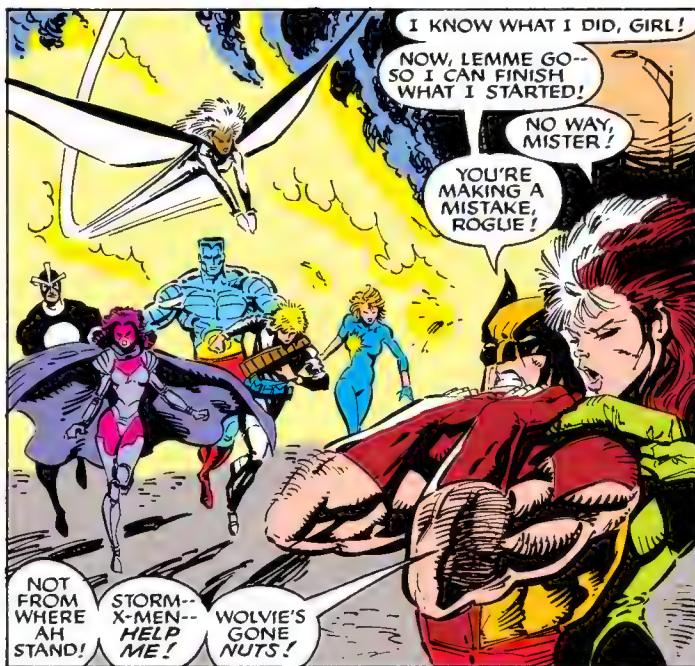












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APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

THE UNCANNY

X-MEN®

**NOW ON SALE
TWICE A MONTH**



**SILVESTRI
& GREEN**

**... IN DOWNTOWN
DENVER, COLORADO...**

**... IN DOWNTOWN
DENVER, COLORADO...**

WE'RE
ALL OF US
BROOD
HERE,
X-MEN.

Uh,
GUYS--

--ARE WE IN TROUBLE ???

AND SOON,
OLD ENEMIES--
VERY SOON--

YOU
WILL BE,
TOO!

STAN LEE
PRESENTS

DAWN OF BLOOD

STARRING THE UNCANNY X-MEN

DAZZLER,
HONEY-CHILE,
AH JUST
LOVE...

... YOUR GIFT
FOR UNDER-
STATEMENT!

CRIPES--
THEY GOT
SUPER-
POWERS!

KOAM!

CHRIS CLAREMONT
WRITER
MARC SILVESTRI
PENCILER
DAN GREEN
INKER
TOM ORZECZOWSKI
LETTERER
GLYNIS OLIVER
COLORIST
BOB HARRAS
EDITOR
TOM DeFALCO
EDITOR IN CHIEF

LOOK
OUT!



OF COURSE,
X-MEN-- THEY'RE
MUTANTS--
JUST LIKE
YOU!

WHY ELSE D'YOU
THINK HARRY PALMER
CHOSE THEM...

... TO BE
THE BROOD'S
VANGUARD ON
EARTH?!



WE DEFEATED
YOUR KIND
BEFORE,
MONSTER--!

KRAK



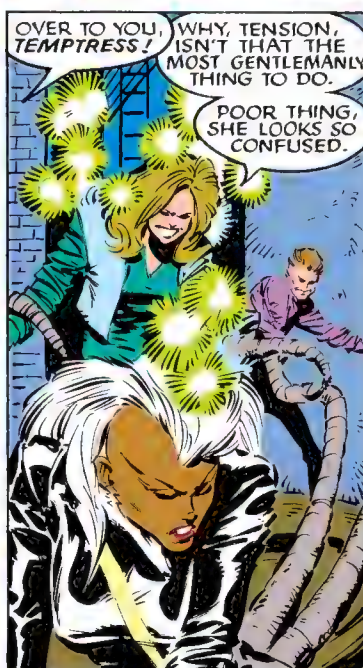
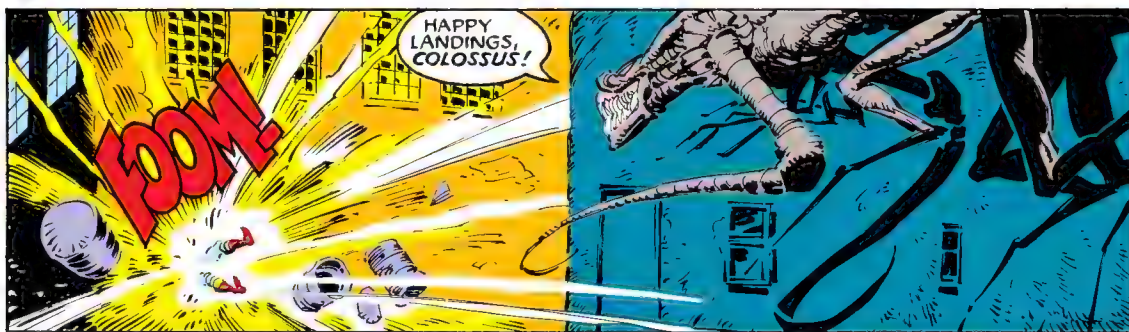
TIMES
CHANGE,
BUNKIE.

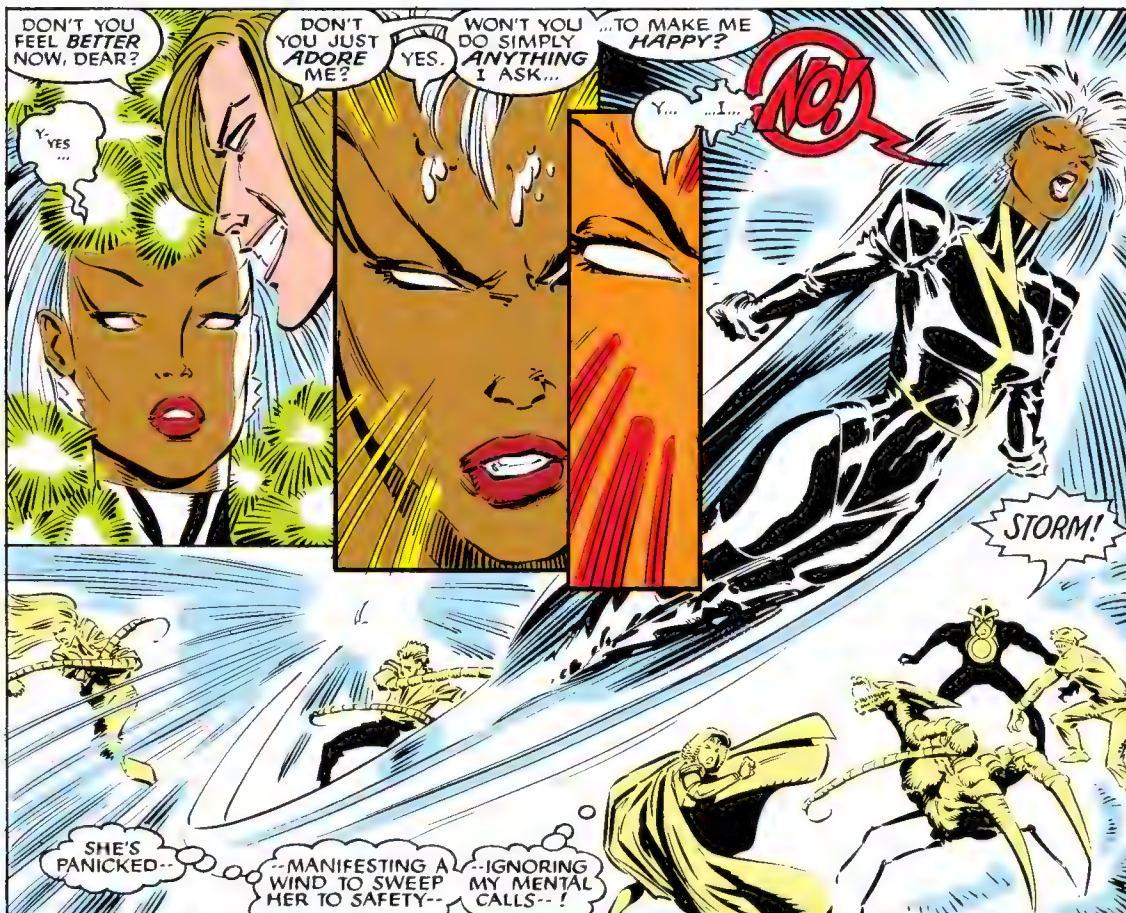
NEW PLAYERS,
WHOLE NEW
BALL GAME.

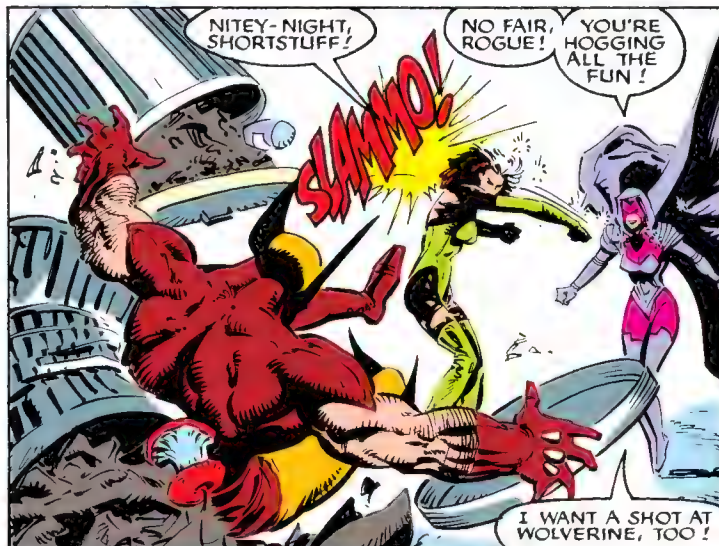
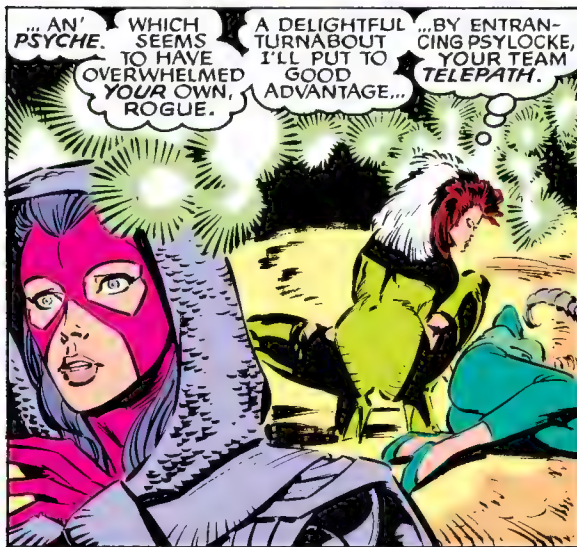
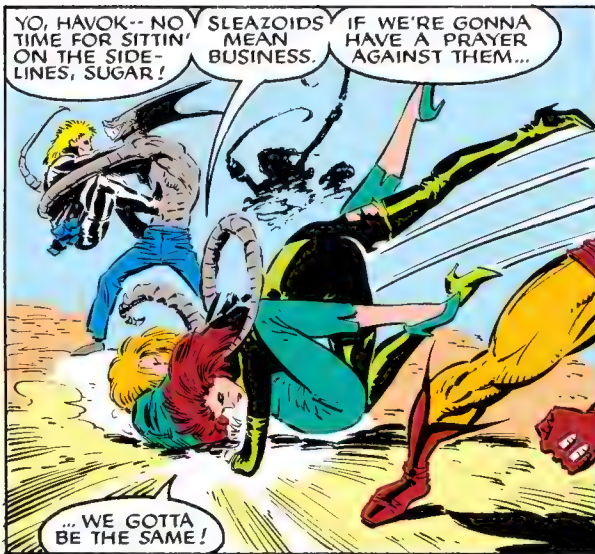


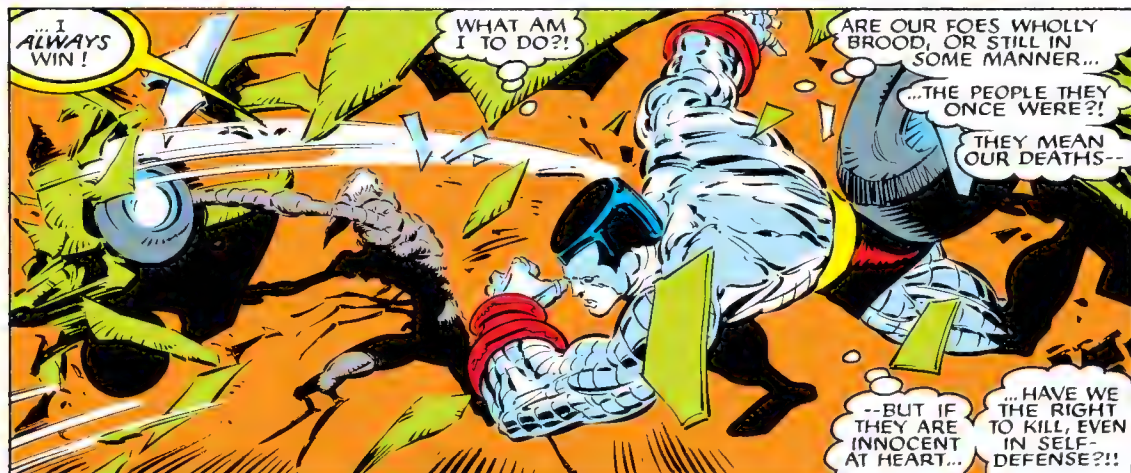
BY THE BYE--
THE NAME'S
BRICKBAT--

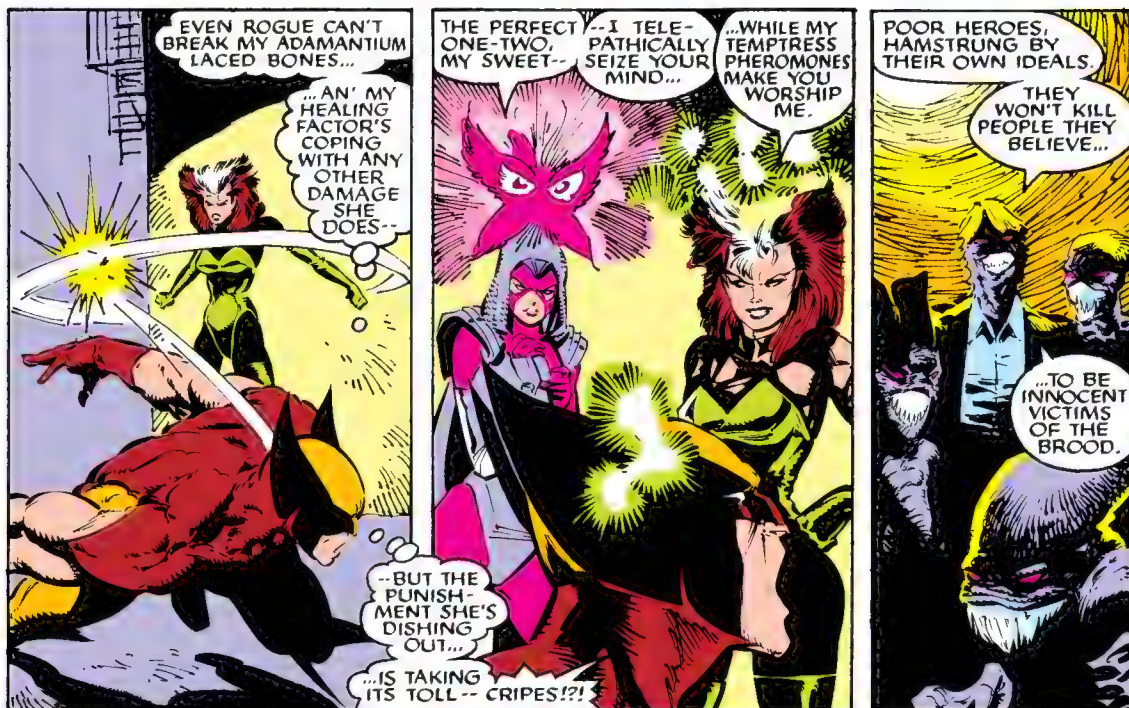
-- 'CAUSE
I HIT
LIKE ONE!

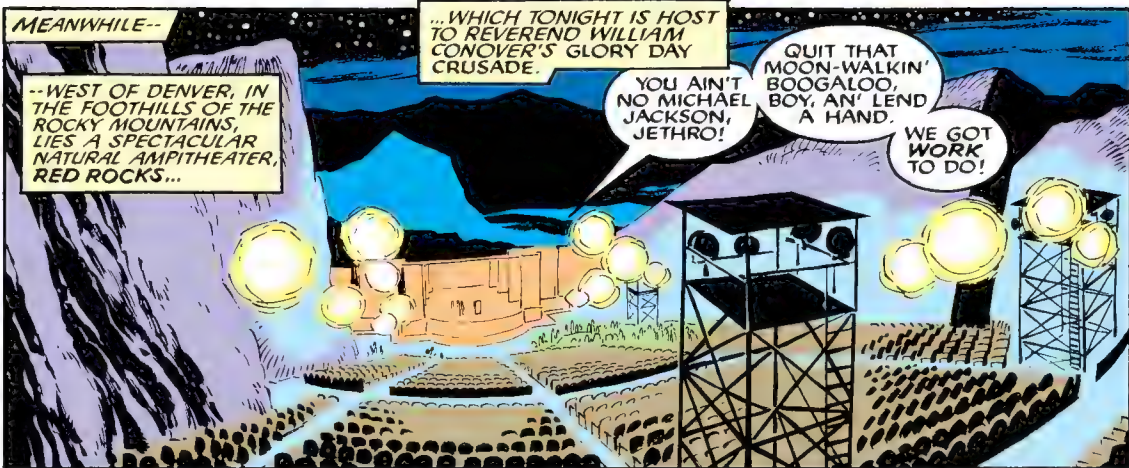












MEANWHILE--

--WEST OF DENVER, IN THE FOOTHILLS OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS, LIES A SPECTACULAR NATURAL AMPITHEATER, RED ROCKS...

...WHICH TONIGHT IS HOST TO REVEREND WILLIAM CONOVER'S GLORY DAY CRUSADE.

YOU AIN'T NO MICHAEL JACKSON, JETHRO!

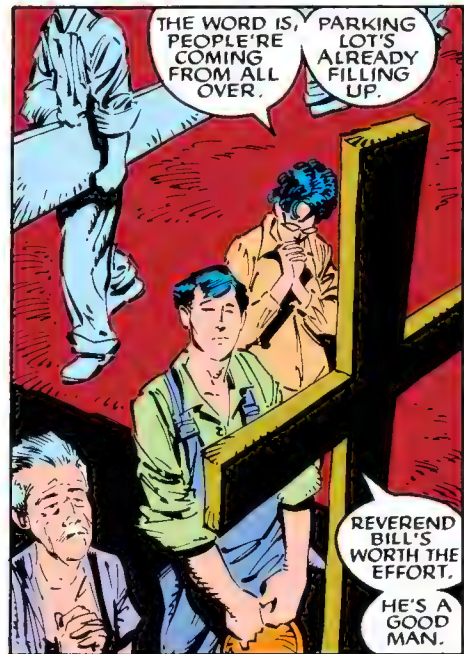
QUIT THAT MOON-WALKIN' BOOGALOO. BOY, AN' LEND A HAND.

WE GOT WORK TO DO!



EVERYTHING GONNA BE READY FOR BILL'S SUNRISE SERVICE, AARON.

SHOULD MAKE IT FINE, GEORGE, WITH ROOM TO SPARE.



THE WORD IS, PEOPLE'RE COMING FROM ALL OVER.

PARKING LOT'S ALREADY FILLING UP.

REVEREND BILL'S WORTH THE EFFORT. HE'S A GOOD MAN.



HAVE SOME MORE, FRIEND...
...THERE'S PLENTY ENOUGH FOR EVERYONE.

ANDREW, TURN DOWN THAT NOISE!

IT'S NEWS, HON. SOUNDS PRETTY WILD.

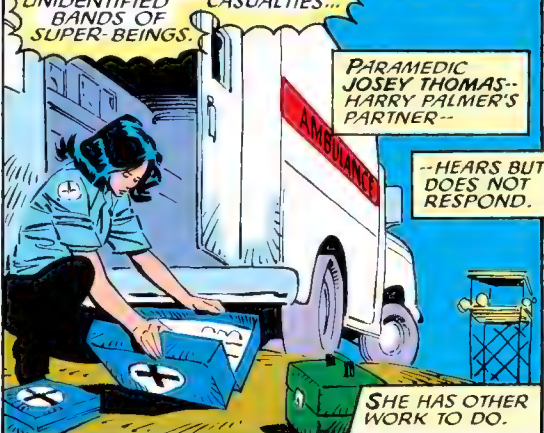
REPORTS ARE STILL SKETCHY-- POLICE ARE TRYING TO CORDON OFF...

...THE SITE OF A BATTLE...

...BETWEEN TWO UNIDENTIFIED BANDS OF SUPER-BEINGS.

THUS FAR, FORTUNATELY, THERE ARE NO REPORTS OF CASUALTIES...

...BUT PROPERTY DAMAGE IS EXTENSIVE.



PARAMEDIC JOSEY THOMAS-- HARRY PALMER'S PARTNER--

--HEARS BUT DOES NOT RESPOND.

SHE HAS OTHER WORK TO DO.



WILLIAM?

UP HERE!

OF COURSE, WHERE ELSE WOULD I FIND YOU THE NIGHT BEFORE A SERVICE...

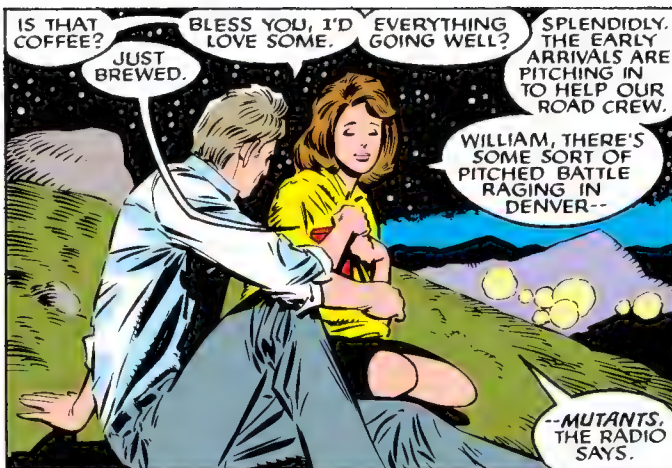
...BUT OUT UNDER THE STARS...

...GAZING UP AT GOD'S HANDIWORK, THE CELESTIAL VAULT OF HEAVEN.

NEVER FAILS TO TAKE MY BREATH AWAY, HANNAH...

...OR RESTORE MY SENSE OF PERSPECTIVE...

...ABOUT MAN'S TRUE PLACE IN THE FIRMAMENT.



IS THAT COFFEE?

JUST BREWED.

BLESS YOU, I'D LOVE SOME.

EVERYTHING GOING WELL?

SPLENDIDLY. THE EARLY ARRIVALS ARE PITCHING IN TO HELP OUR ROAD CREW.

WILLIAM, THERE'S SOME SORT OF PITCHED BATTLE RAGING IN DENVER--

--MUTANTS, THE RADIO SAYS.



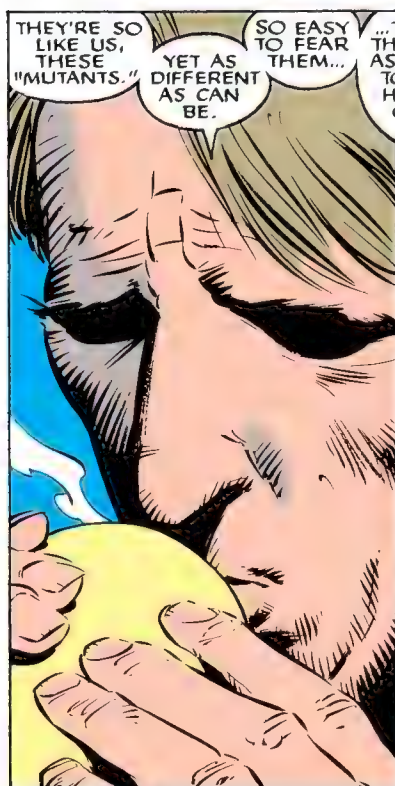
MIGHT AS WELL SAY BLACKS OR MIDGETS OR WOMEN... OR MARTIANS--

--THE ACCUSATION WOULD MAKE AS MUCH SENSE.

I CAN POUR, HANNAH.

SO CAN I, WILLIAM, STILL.

IT'S MY PLEASURE.



THEY'RE SO LIKE US, THESE "MUTANTS."

YET AS DIFFERENT AS CAN BE.

SO EASY TO FEAR THEM...

...TO THINK OF THEM SOLELY AS A THREAT TO HUMAN HEGEMONY OVER THE EARTH.

AREN'T THEY?

NO MORE, I SUSPECT, THAN CHILDREN ARE TO THEIR PARENTS.



YOU LOVE THEM WHEN THEY'RE YOUNG AND GROWING--

--YOU MARVEL AT THE WONDER OF THEIR EXISTENCE--

--UNTIL YOU START TO REALIZE THEY'RE YOUNG AND YOU'RE NOT.

THEY'LL SEE AND EXPERIENCE THINGS YOU NEVER WILL.

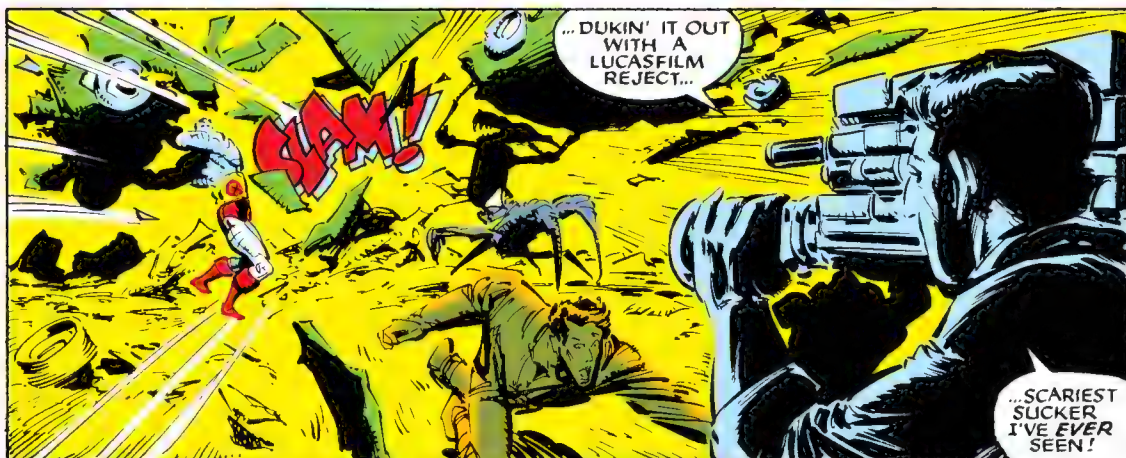
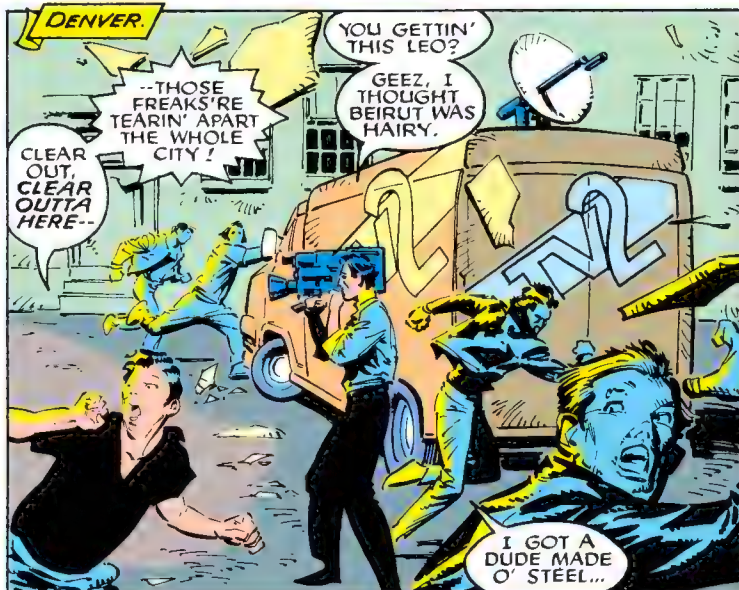
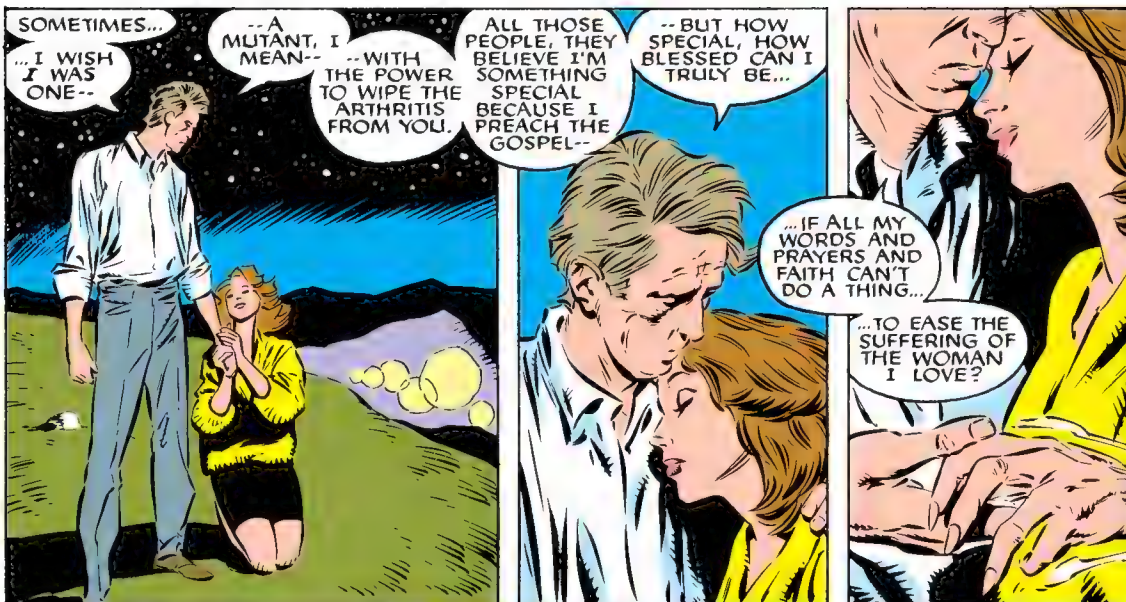


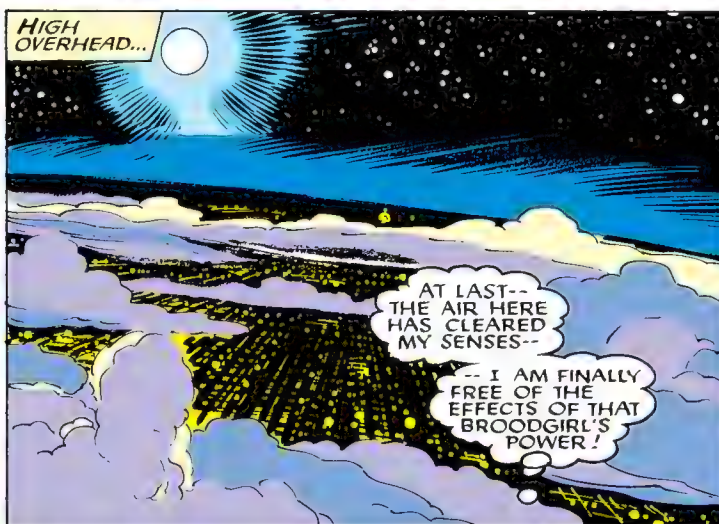
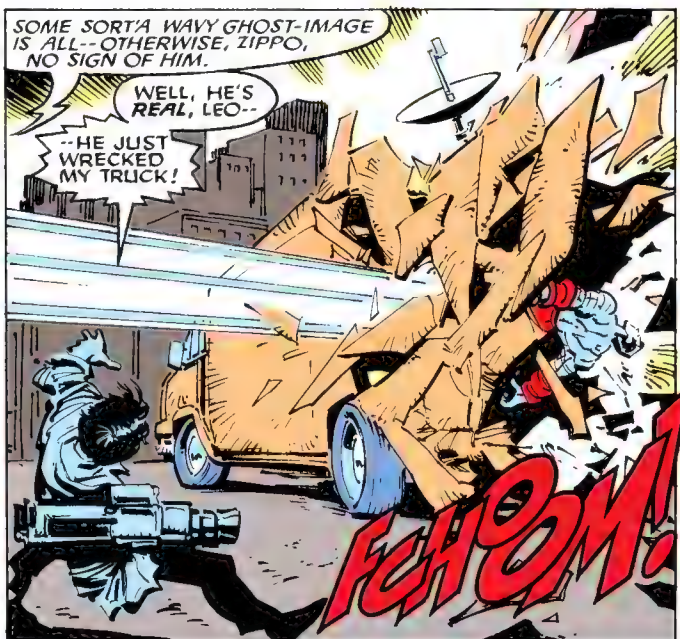
THEY'RE THE FUTURE-- AND SUDDENLY, YOU'RE THE PAST.

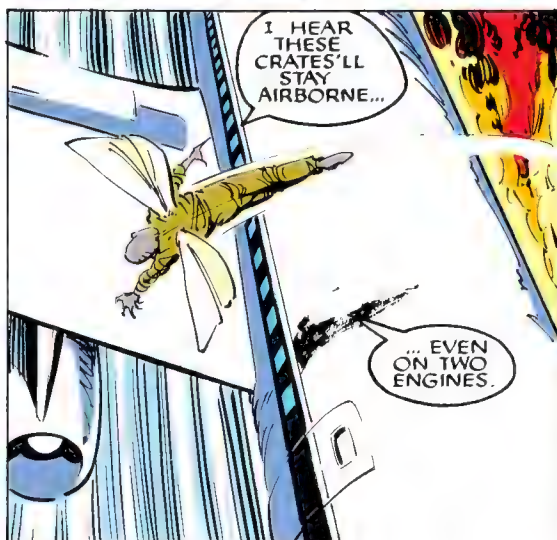
IT HURTS. YOU RESENT IT. RESENT THEM.

AND THE LOVE ISN'T QUITE SO ABSOLUTE ANYMORE.

AND FOR A FEW, SADLY, IT TURNS TO SOMETHING ELSE.









THE PLANE-- FALLING
OUT OF CONTROL!

CURSE THAT
BROODBEAST--

--HE KNOWS
I MUST GO
TO ITS AID!

FIRST,
THOUGH--

--I NEED
A WIND...

...TO HURL
THE ENGINES
AS FAR FROM
THE CITY AS
POSSIBLE...

"...TO LESSEN THE RISK TO ANYONE BELOW."



STAPLETON
TOWER--
TWA 843--
MAYDAY,
MAYDAY!

RICK--
FULL
POWER,
NUMBER
THREE--

--AND HAUL ON THAT YOKE,
HARD AS YOU CAN--

--WE GOTTA
BRING HER
NOSE UP!

CAPTAIN, SHE'S
NOT RESPONDING!



I WISH I
POSSESSED
WOLVERINE'S
CLAWS,
MONSTER--

KHON!

--SO I
COULD
DEAL
WITH YOU
AS YOU
DESERVE...

...PERMANENTLY!



I HAVE TO
FINISH
THIS...

...BEFORE HE
RECOVERS.

AIRCRAFT
SO CLOSE
TO THE
GROUND--

...TO FOCUS
AN UPDRAFT...

--ALMOST
NO TIME...

...TO COUNTER
ITS FALL...



...AND BRING IT SAFELY
TO EARTH.

D'YOU
SEE?!

IT CAN'T
BE!

THOUGHT
THEY WERE
GONERS

A
MIRACLE

WHO'S
THAT
OUT
THERE

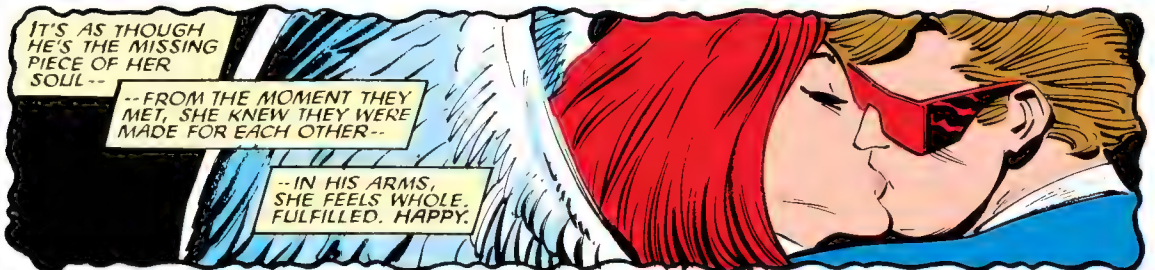
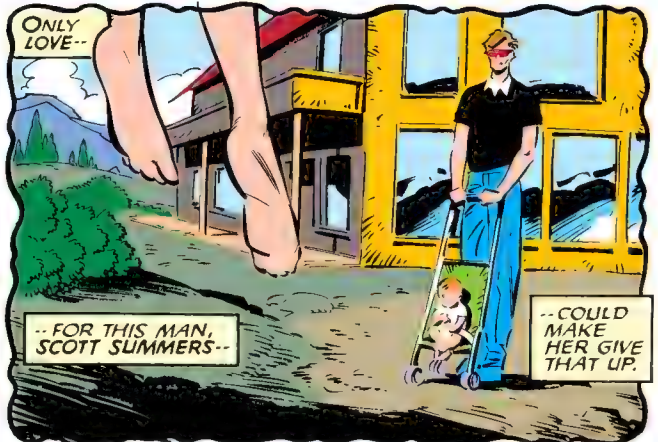
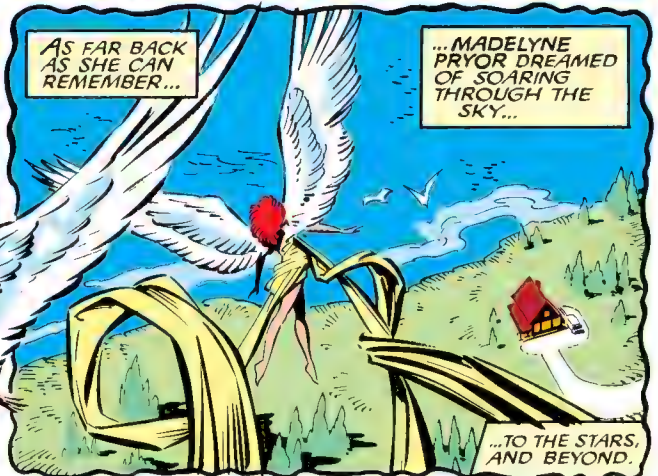
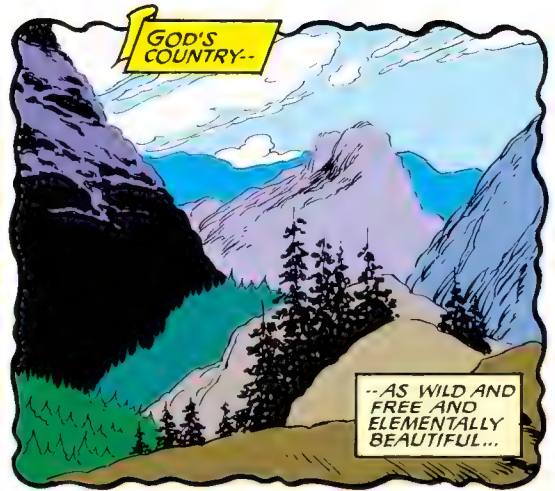
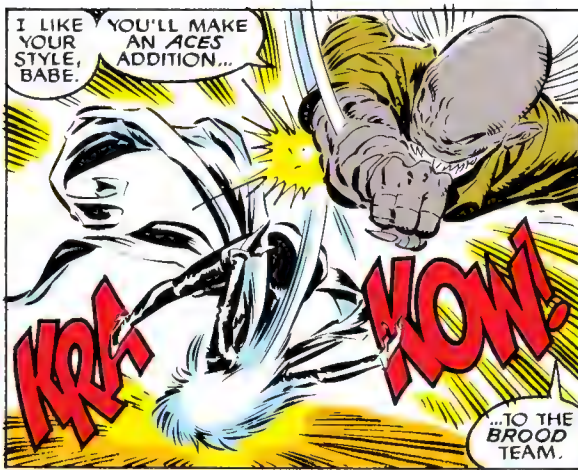
AN ANGEL,
BLESS HER

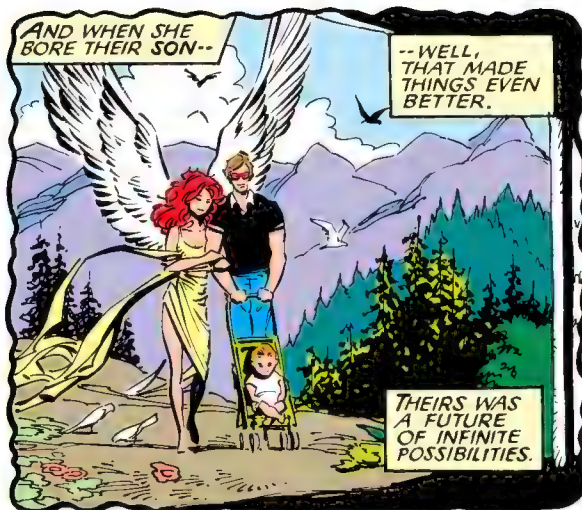


THE
PASSENGERS
ARE OFF...

...THE FIRE
IS OUT--

--MY
WORK IS
DONE.

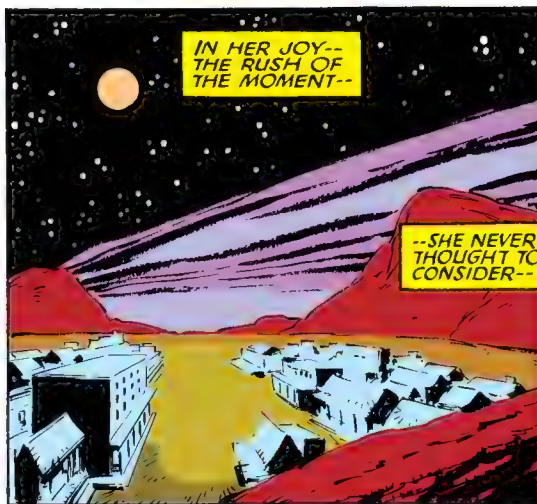




AND WHEN SHE
BORE THEIR SON--

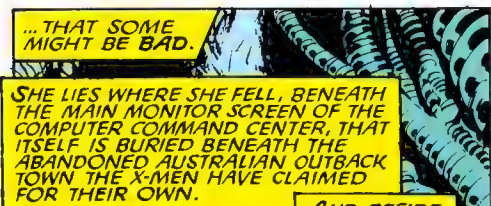
--WELL,
THAT MADE
THINGS EVEN
BETTER.

THEIRS WAS
A FUTURE
OF INFINITE
POSSIBILITIES.



IN HER JOY--
THE RUSH OF
THE MOMENT--

--SHE NEVER
THOUGHT TO
CONSIDER--



...THAT SOME
MIGHT BE BAD.

SHE LIES WHERE SHE FELL, BENEATH
THE MAIN MONITOR SCREEN OF THE
COMPUTER COMMAND CENTER, THAT
ITSELF IS BURIED BENEATH THE
ABANDONED AUSTRALIAN OUTBACK
TOWN THE X-MEN HAVE CLAIMED
FOR THEIR OWN.

AND BESIDE
HER-- IN THIS
REALM OF
THE FLESH...

...AS WELL AS
THIS OTHER OF
THE SPIRIT...

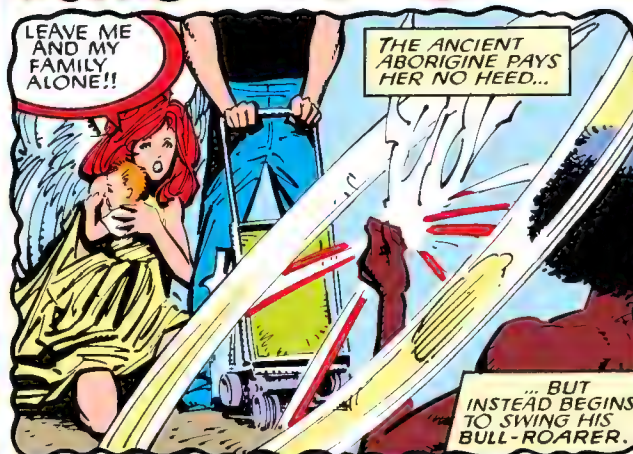
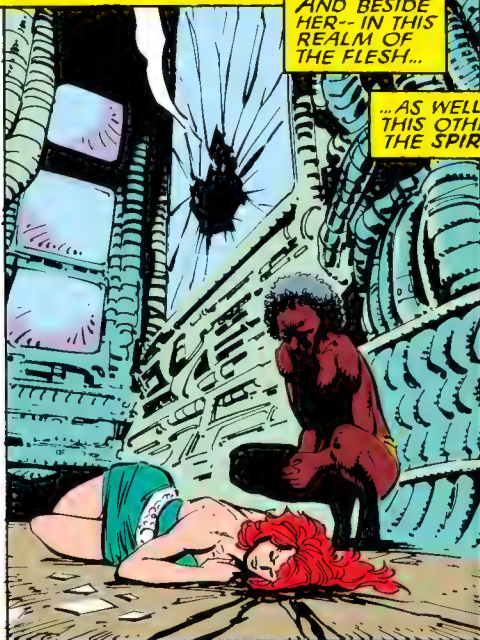


GATEWAY!?!

WHAT ARE
YOU DOING
HERE?!

YOU DON'T
EXIST! YOU'RE
A CREATURE
FROM MY
DREAMS!!

GO
AWAY,
CURSE
YOU!



LEAVE ME
AND MY
FAMILY
ALONE!!

THE ANCIENT
ABORIGINE PAYS
HER NO HEED...

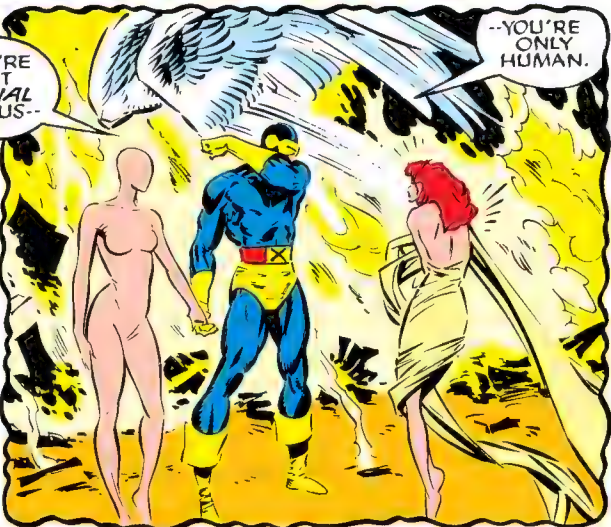
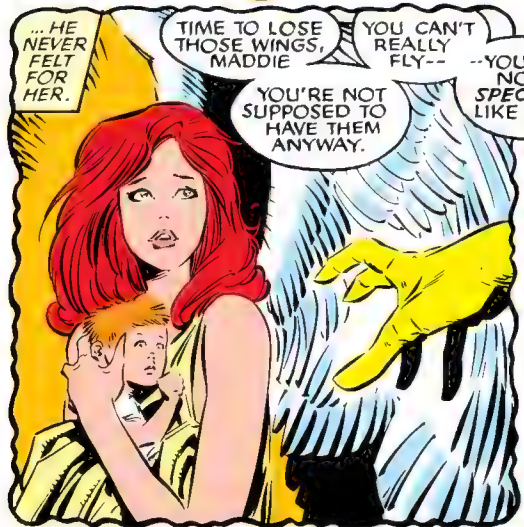
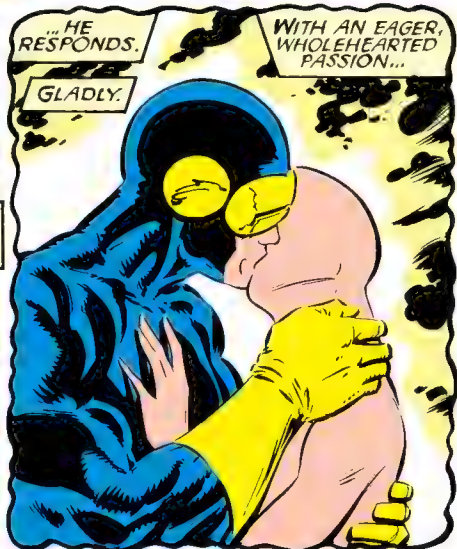
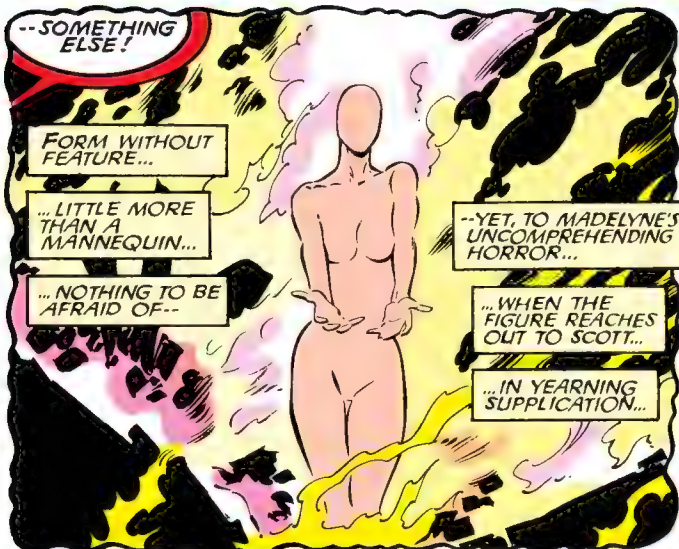
... BUT
INSTEAD BEGINS
TO SWING HIS
BULL-ROARER.

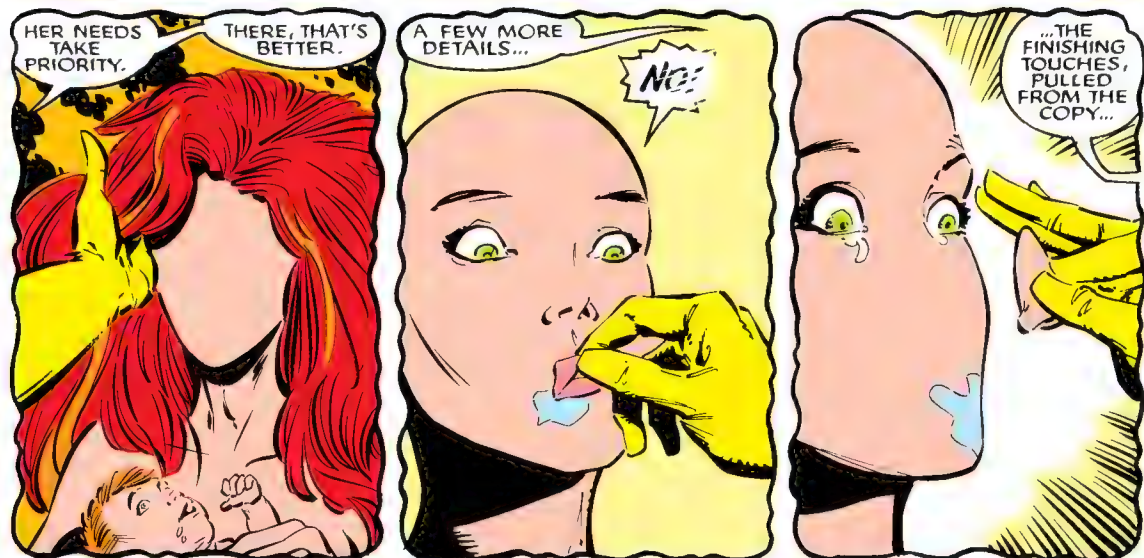
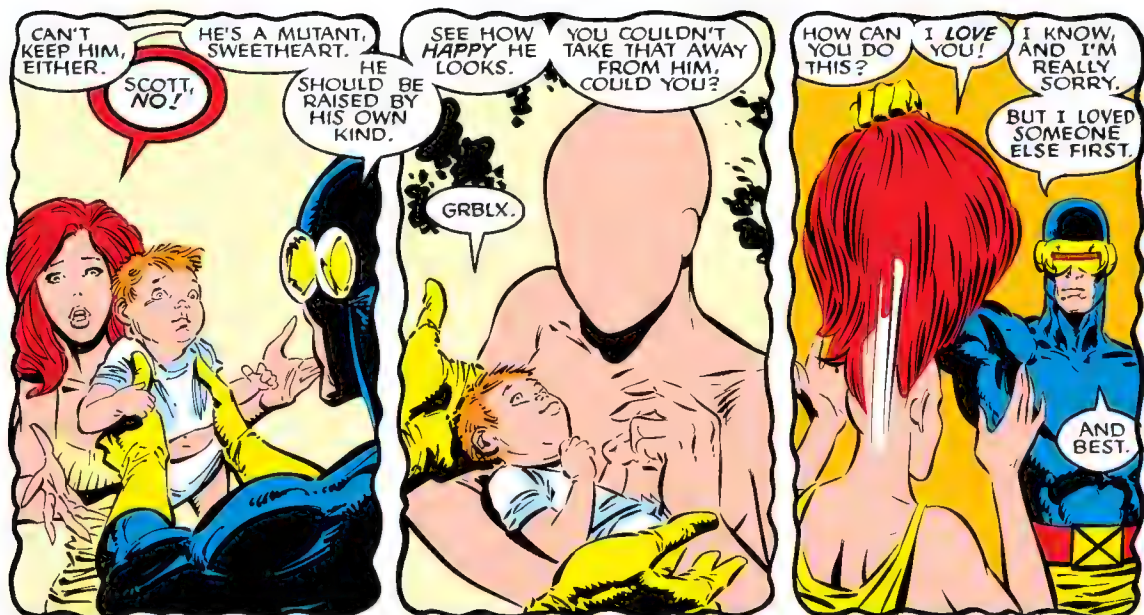


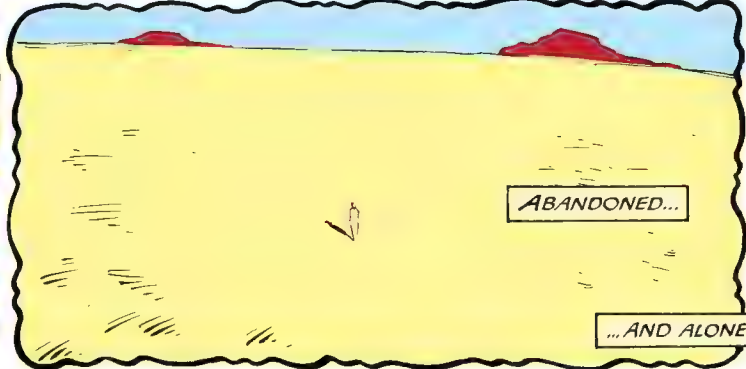
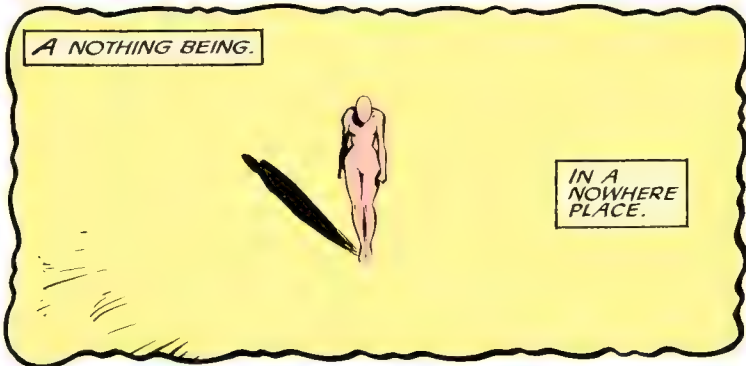
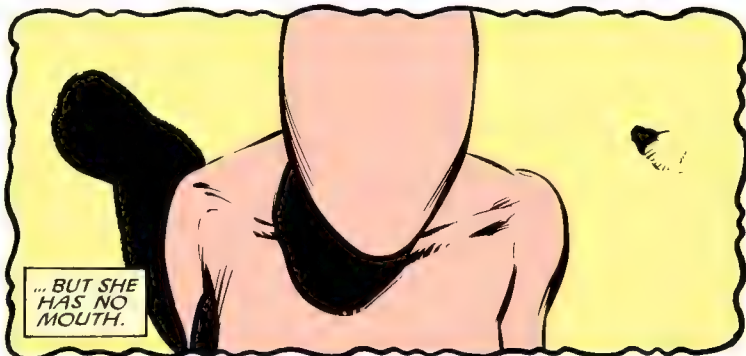
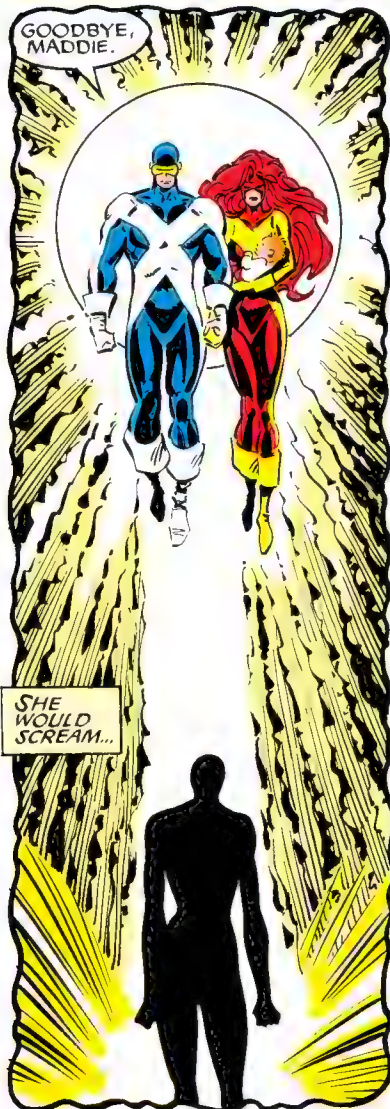
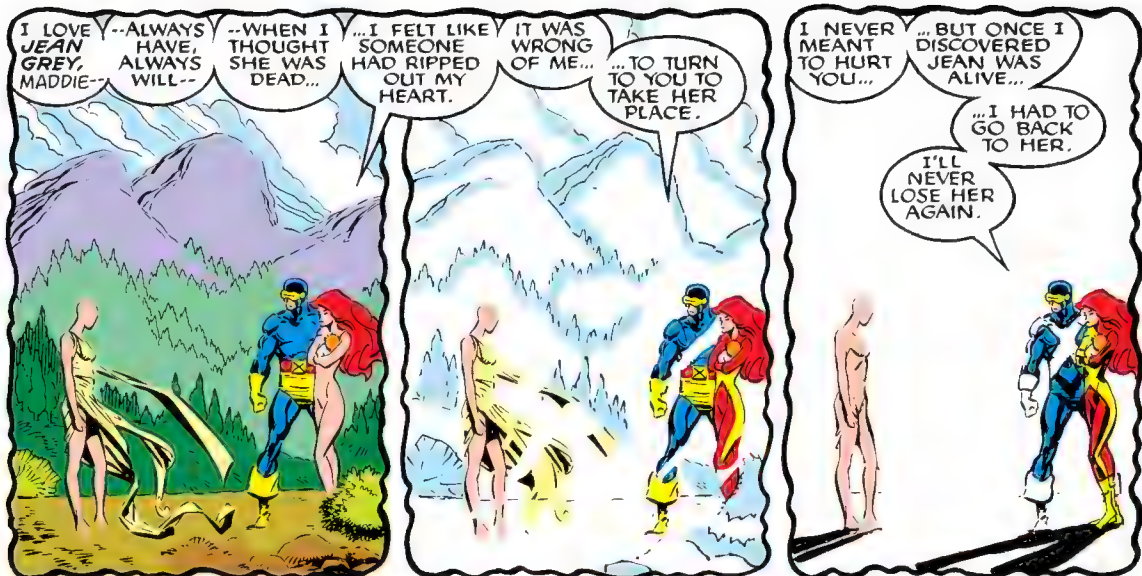
IN OUR WAKING
REALITY, THIS
OPENS A
TELEPORTAL
GATEWAY.

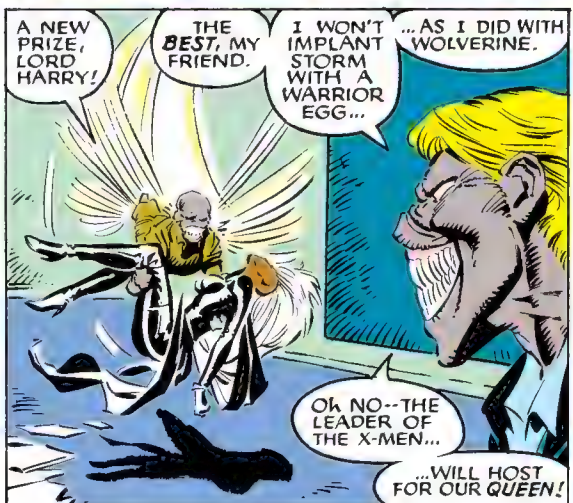
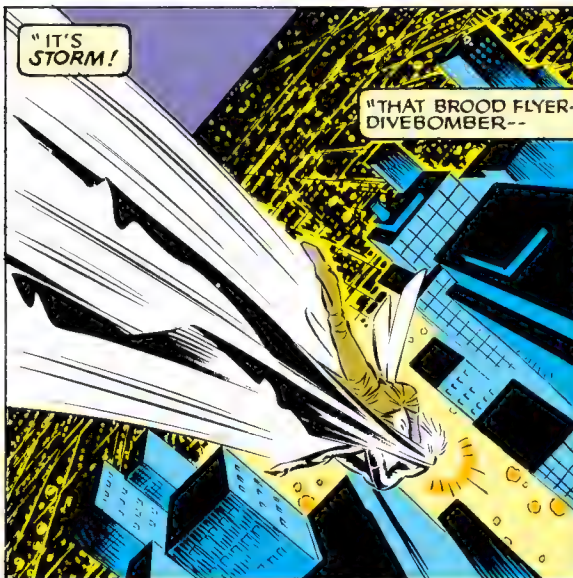
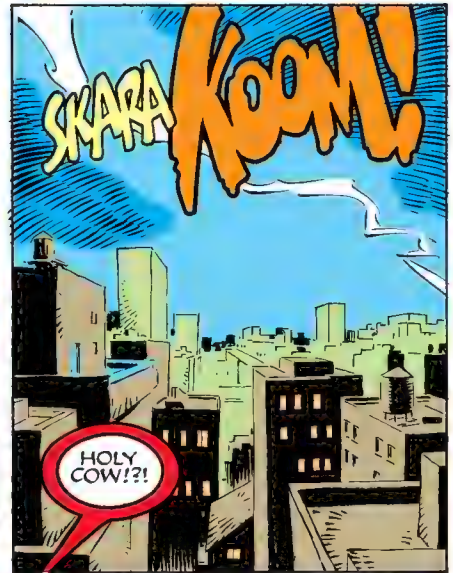
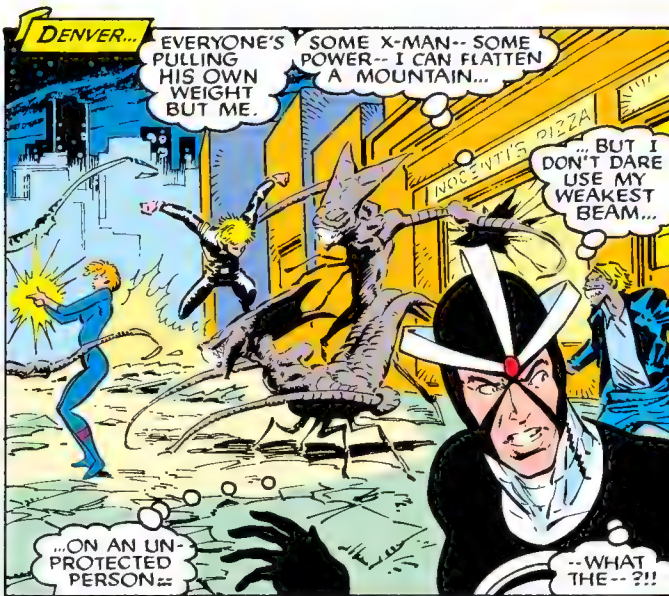
BOOM!

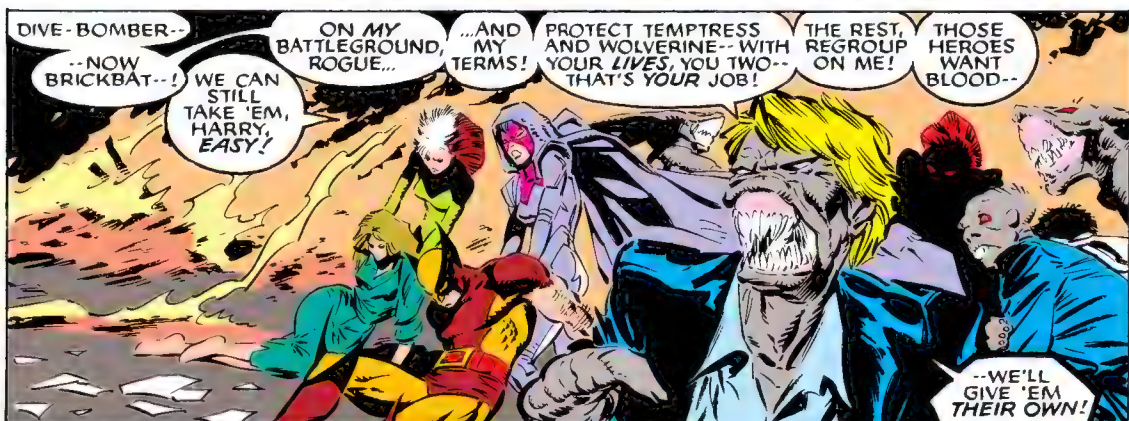
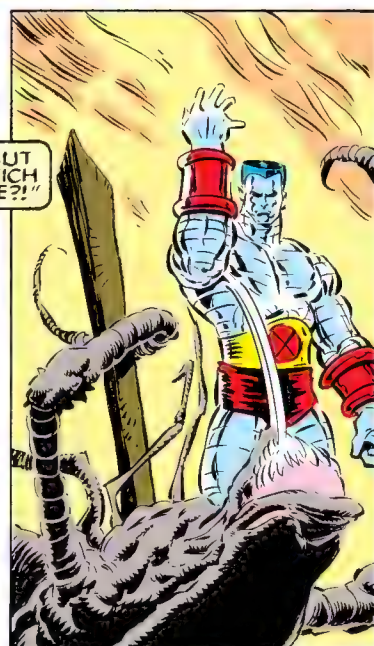
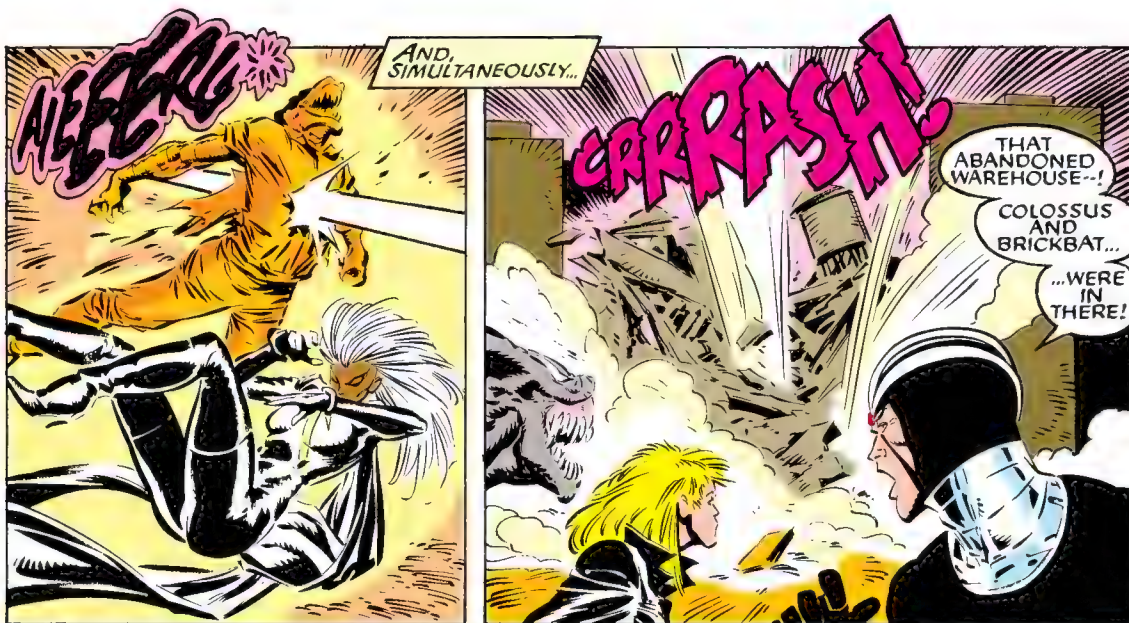
HERE, IT HAS
OTHER ABILITIES.













IN TWO WEEKS: **GLORY DAY**

MARVEL

THE UNCANNY

X-MEN



TM

© 1988 MARVEL ENT. GROUP, INC.

\$1.00 US
\$1.25 CAN
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LATE SEPT
02461

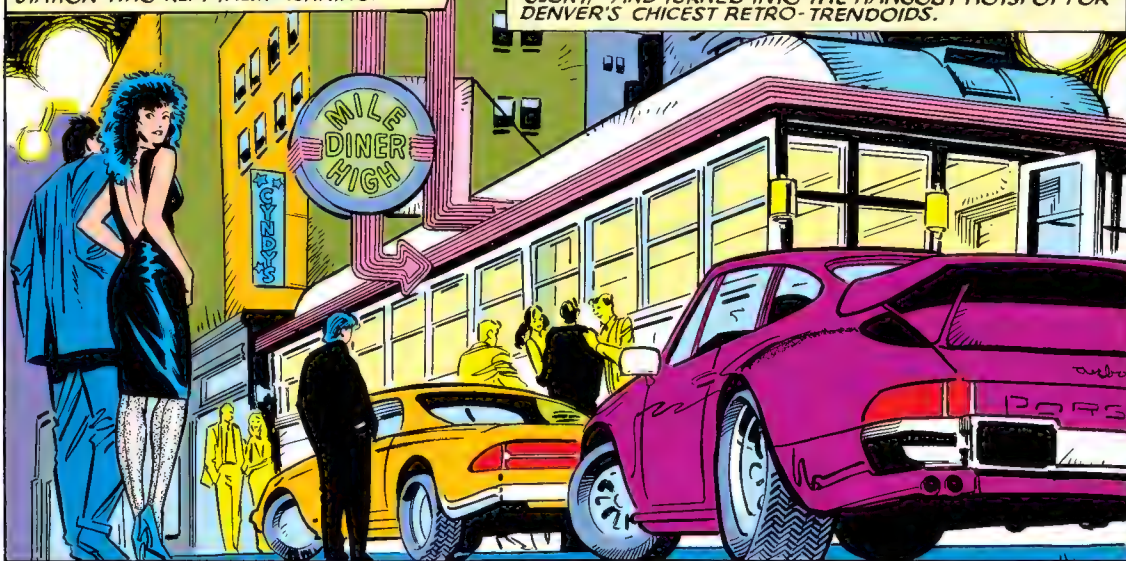
APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY



SILVESTRI
GREEN

WHEN THE MILE HIGH DINER OPENED, BACK IN THE HEYDAY OF RAIL TRAVEL, IT CATERED MOSTLY TO THE CREWS WHO RODE THE BIG ENGINES ACROSS THE COUNTRY AND THE YARD WORKERS AT DENVER'S UNION STATION WHO KEPT THEM RUNNING.

BUT AS THE FORTUNES OF THE RAILROADS FELL, SO TOO DID THE NEIGHBORHOOD AND DINER THAT DEPENDED ON THEM. HARD TIMES, WITH A VENGEANCE--UNTIL, BARELY HANGING ON, MILE HIGH WAS REFURBISHED, RESTORED TO A MODERN DESIGNER-VERSION OF ITS ORIGINAL "GLORY," AND TURNED INTO THE HANGOUT HOTSPOT FOR DENVER'S CHICEST RETRO-TRENDOIDS.



SURPRISINGLY, FOR ALL THE GLITZ, THE MILE HIGH HASN'T LOST ITS SOUL. IT OFFERS TODAY WHAT IT ALWAYS DID: GOOD FOOD, GOOD CONVERSATION, FAIR PRICES--

--AND IN RETURN, ON THE AVERAGE NIGHT, THERE ARE STILL AS MANY BLUE COLLAR PATRONS AS WHITE, AND THE PLACE IS AS JUMPING AT MIDNIGHT AS NOON.



UNFORTUNATELY, TONIGHT IS ANYTHING BUT AVERAGE...

Whoa!

WHAT THE--?!

THAT LIGHT ?!?

FROM THE TRAINYARD--

--GOOD LORD, WAS IT AN EXPLOSION?!



NOPE--
SOMETHING
FAR WORSE!

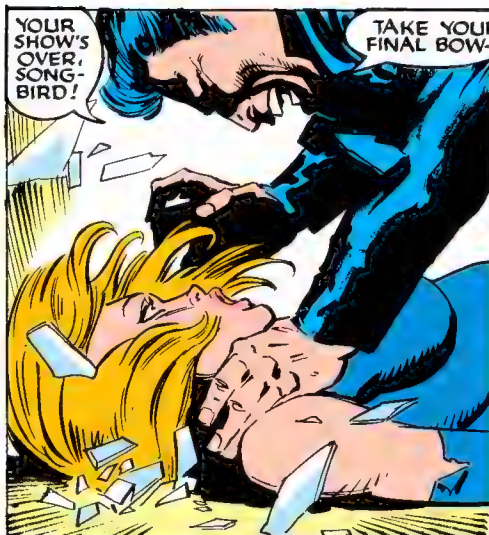
STAN LEE presents

Glory Day

Starring
THE
UNCANNY
X-MEN

CHRIS
CLAREMONT
WRITER
MARC
SILVESTRI
PENCILER
JOSEF
RUBINSTEIN
GUEST INKER
GLYNIS
OLIVER
COLORIST
TOM
ORZECZOWSKI
LETTERER
BOB
HARRAS
EDITOR
TOM
DeFALCO
EDITOR IN CHIEF





YOUR
SHOW'S
OVER,
SONG-
BIRD!

TAKE YOUR
FINAL BOW--

--THE CURTAIN'S
COMIN' DOWN!

THE
HECK
IT IS,
SKUNGE!

SKAM!

HER NAME IS
DAZZLER.

SHE TAKES SOUND--
ANY SOUND (BUT
SHE LIKES ROCK
MUSIC BEST)-- AND
TRANSDUCES IT
INTO LIGHT.



IN THIS CASE, A
PRESSOR BEAM OF
FOCUSED PHOTONS.

THEY'RE
WRECKIN'
THE
PLACE--
--CALL THE
COPS!

KISS
KISS



WE
GOT
HER!

CAREFUL--
SHE'S A
MUTIE!

LEMMEGO!

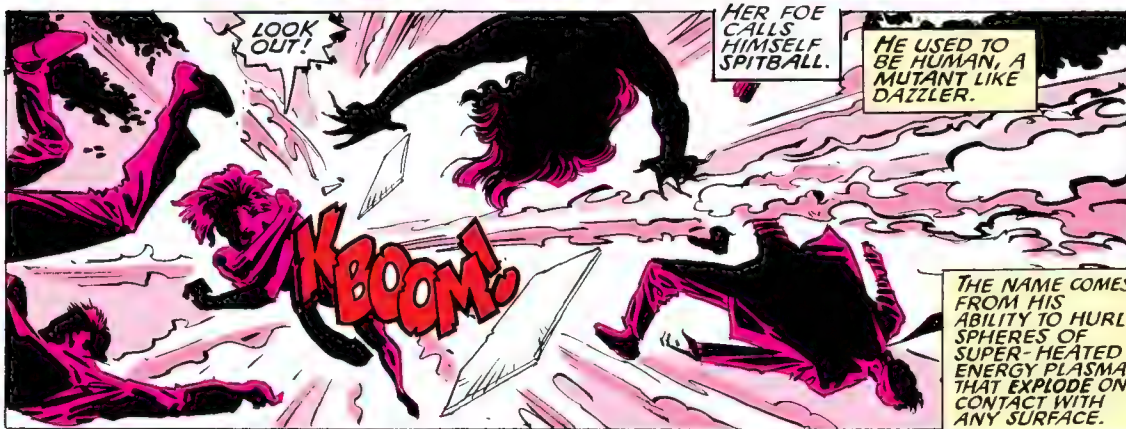
I'M ONE OF THE
GOOD GUYS!



THEIR
MISTAKE.

YOUR
FUNERAL.

PW!



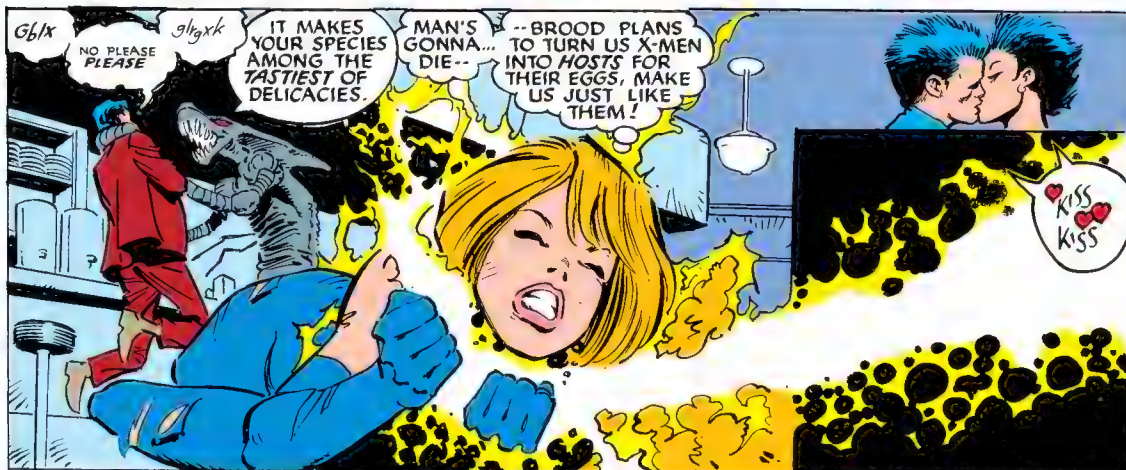
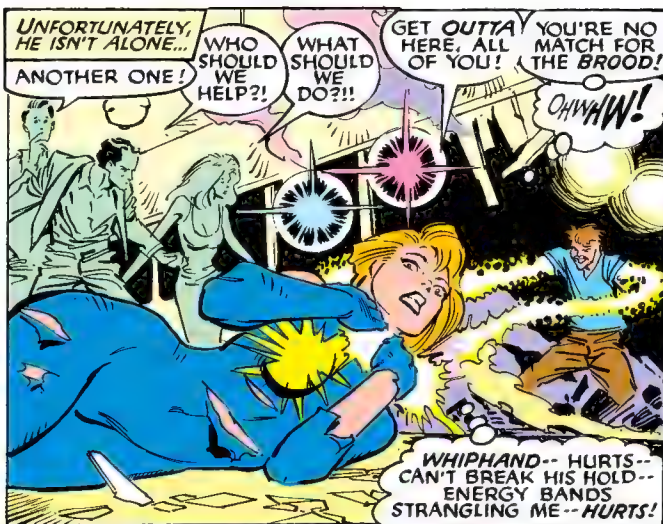
LOOK
OUT!

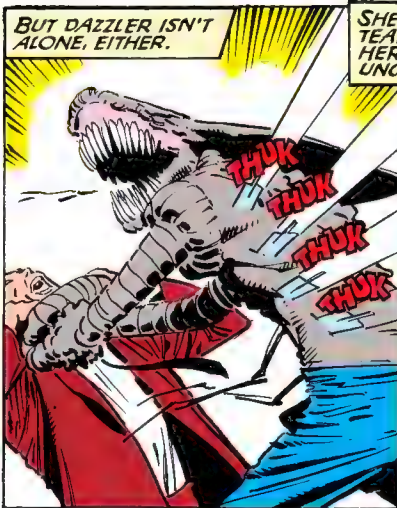
HER FOE
CALLS
HIMSELF
SPITBALL.

HE USED TO
BE HUMAN, A
MUTANT LIKE
DAZZLER.

KBOOM!

THE NAME COMES
FROM HIS
ABILITY TO HURL
SPHERES OF
SUPER-HEATED
ENERGY PLASMA,
THAT EXPLODE ON
CONTACT WITH
ANY SURFACE.

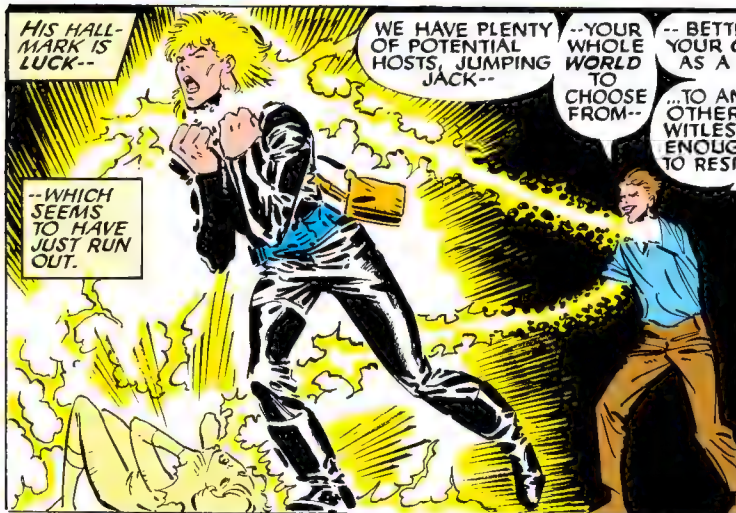




BUT DAZZLER ISN'T ALONE, EITHER.

SHE'S PART OF A TEAM OF MUTANT HEROES, THE UNCANNY X-MEN.

LONGSHOT'S ITS NEWEST MEMBER.



HIS HALL-MARK IS LUCK--

WE HAVE PLENTY OF POTENTIAL HOSTS, JUMPING JACK--

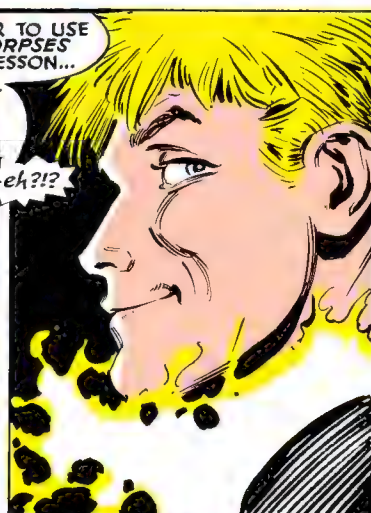
--YOUR WHOLE WORLD TO CHOOSE FROM--

-- BETTER TO USE YOUR CORPSES AS A LESSON...

...TO ANY OTHERS WITLESS ENOUGH TO RESIST

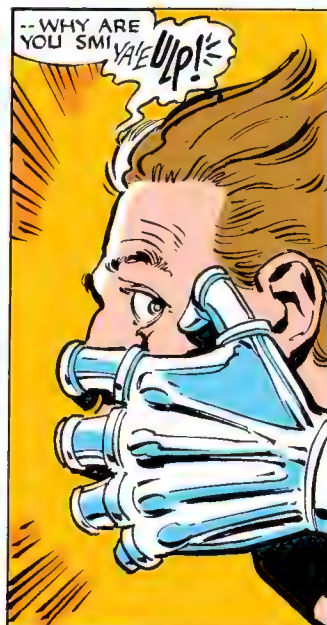
--eh?!--

--WHICH SEEMS TO HAVE JUST RUN OUT.



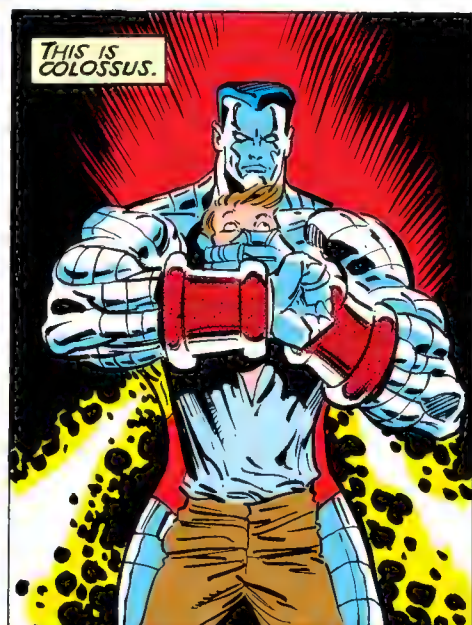
I'M KILLING YOU, FOOL--

--OR ARE YOU TOO STUPID TO NOTICE--

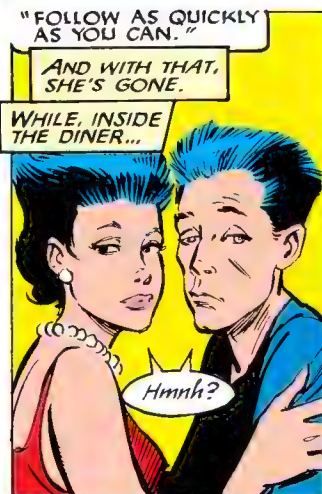
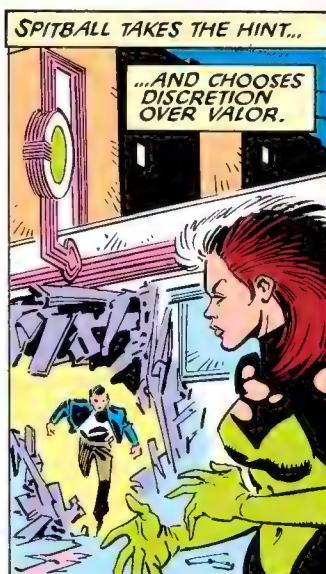
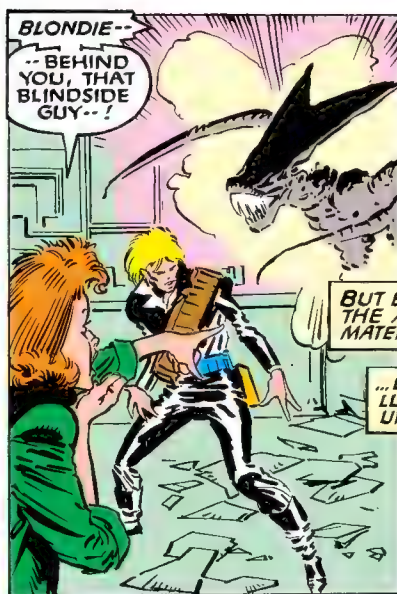
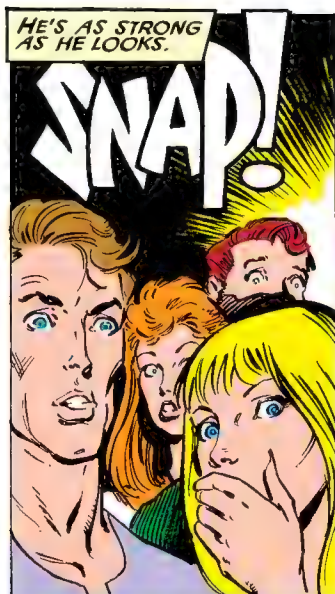


--WHY ARE YOU SMILING?

Up!



THIS IS COLOSSUS.





MEANWHILE--

--ON THE
OTHER
SIDE OF THE
WORLD...

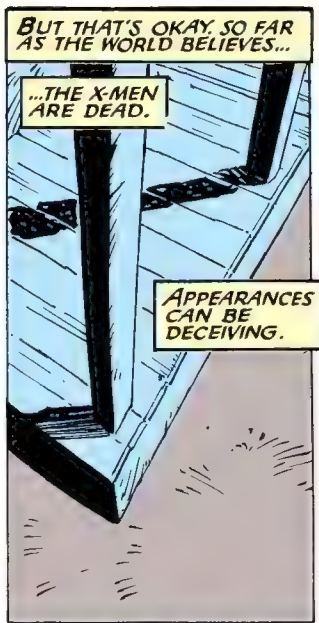
...IN THE
DESOLATE,
DESERTED
TOWN...



...IN THE HEART
OF AUSTRALIA'S
OUTBACK...

...THAT THE
X-MEN HAVE
CHOSEN FOR
THEIR HOME.

DOESN'T
LOOK LIKE
MUCH.



BUT THAT'S OKAY, SO FAR
AS THE WORLD BELIEVES...

...THE X-MEN
ARE DEAD.

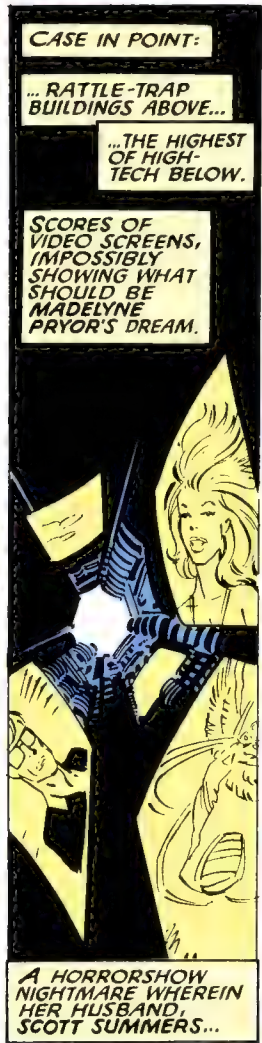
APPEARANCES
CAN BE
DECEIVING.



AND FEW
THINGS--

--ESPECIALLY
WHERE THE
X-MEN ARE
CONCERNED--

--ARE
EVER
WHAT
THEY
SEEM.



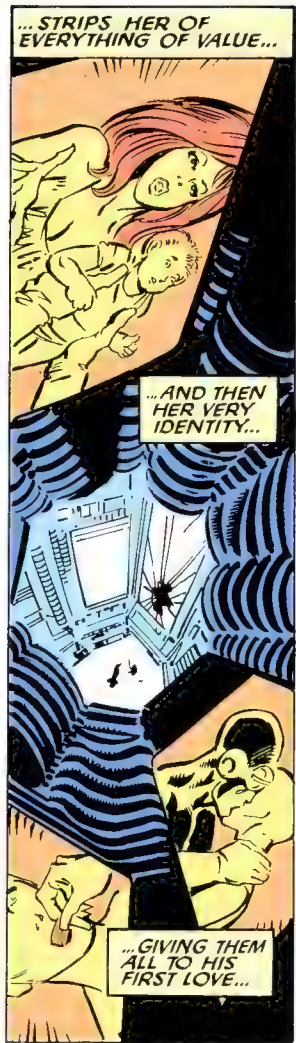
CASE IN POINT:

... RATTLE-TRAP
BUILDINGS ABOVE...

...THE HIGHEST
OF HIGH-
TECH BELOW.

SCORES OF
VIDEO SCREENS,
IMPOSSIBLY
SHOWING WHAT
SHOULD BE
MADELYNE
PRYOR'S DREAM.

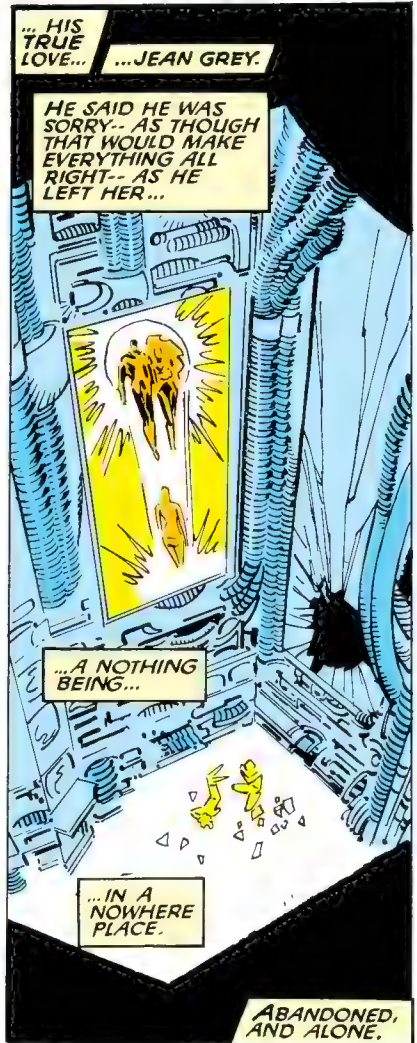
A HORRORSHOW
NIGHTMARE WHEREIN
HER HUSBAND,
SCOTT SUMMERS...



... STRIPS HER OF
EVERYTHING OF VALUE...

...AND THEN
HER VERY
IDENTITY...

...GIVING THEM
ALL TO HIS
FIRST LOVE...



... HIS
TRUE
LOVE...

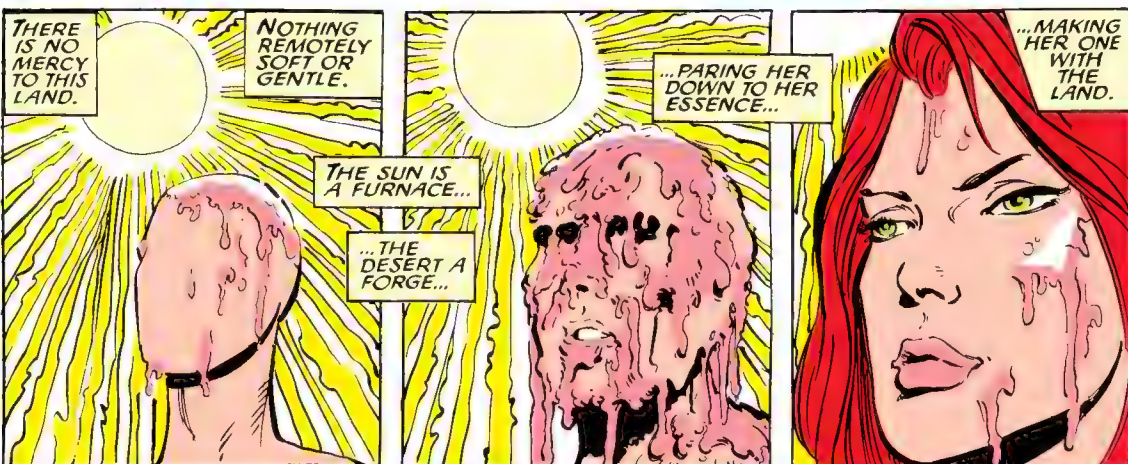
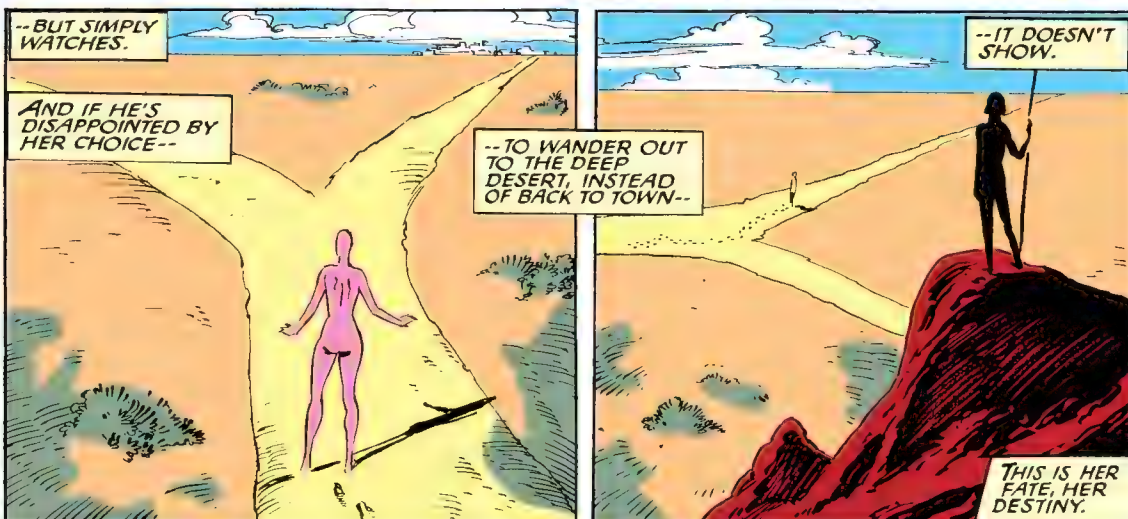
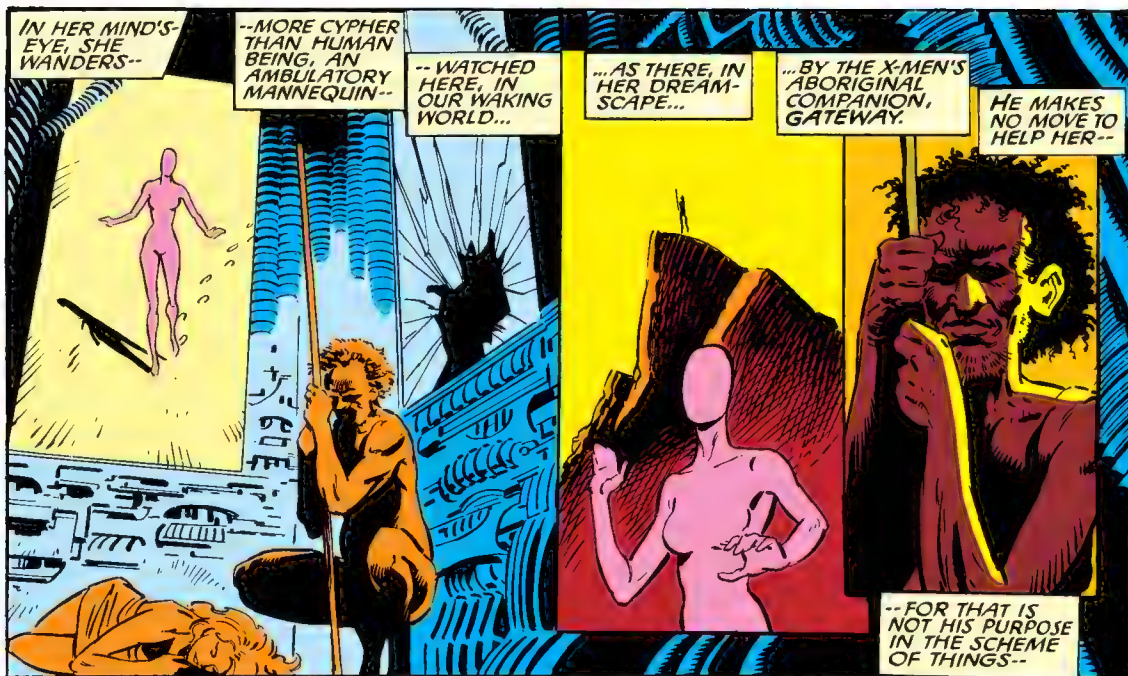
...JEAN GREY.

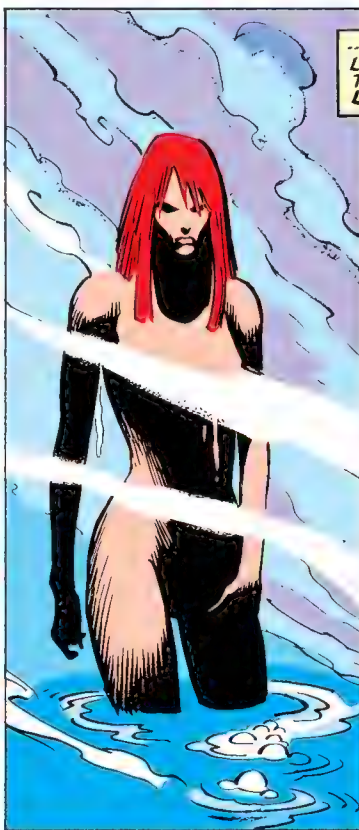
HE SAID HE WAS
SORRY-- AS THOUGH
THAT WOULD MAKE
EVERYTHING ALL
RIGHT-- AS HE
LEFT HER...

...A NOTHING
BEING...

...IN A
NOWHERE
PLACE.

ABANDONED,
AND ALONE.







YOU... KNOW ME?

HEY-- WE'RE INSIDE YOUR HEAD, REMEMBER? AREN'T WE ALL FRIENDS HERE?

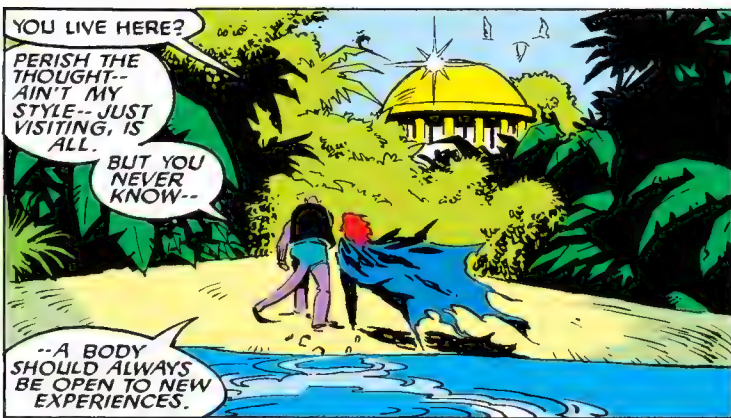
I WONDER.

LIVE AN' LEARN, THAT'S SYM'S MOTTO.

WHOSE?

S'YM. ME.

Oh.

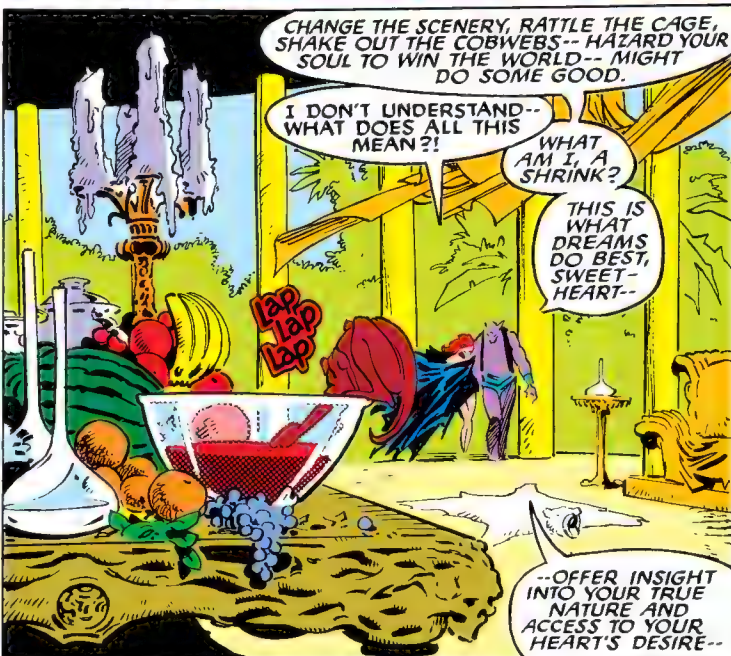


YOU LIVE HERE?

PERISH THE THOUGHT-- AIN'T MY STYLE-- JUST VISITING, IS ALL.

BUT YOU NEVER KNOW--

--A BODY SHOULD ALWAYS BE OPEN TO NEW EXPERIENCES.



CHANGE THE SCENERY, RATTLE THE CAGE, SHAKE OUT THE COBWEBS-- HAZARD YOUR SOUL TO WIN THE WORLD-- MIGHT DO SOME GOOD.

I DON'T UNDERSTAND-- WHAT DOES ALL THIS MEAN?!

WHAT AM I, A SHRINK?

THIS IS WHAT DREAMS DO BEST, SWEET-HEART--

--OFFER INSIGHT INTO YOUR TRUE NATURE AND ACCESS TO YOUR HEART'S DESIRE--



--WOULDN'T YOU LIKE THAT?

I'M... NOT SURE. STRANGE-- ALMOST FRIGHTENING--



--I FEEL LIKE I'M FLYING BLIND, WITH A THUNDER-STORM ALL AROUND, ONLY I DON'T KNOW WHERE...

DON'T CHA JUST HATE THAT-- BEING AT THE MERCY OF FORCES BEYOND YOUR CONTROL?

WOULDN'T YOU RATHER SHAPE YOUR OWN DESTINY...

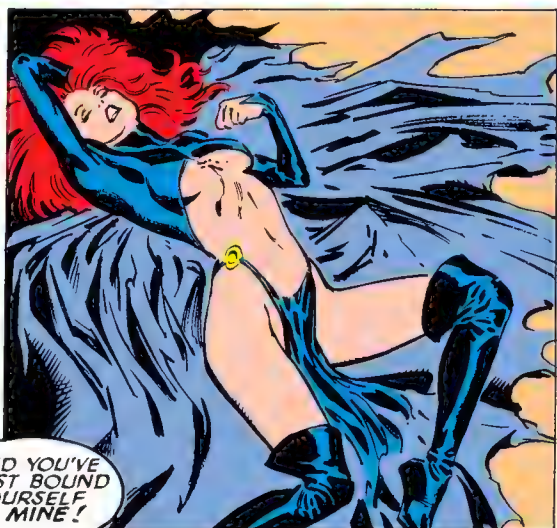
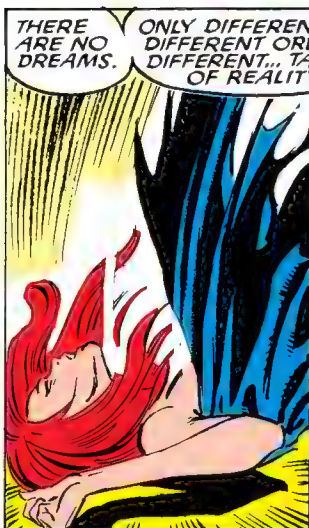
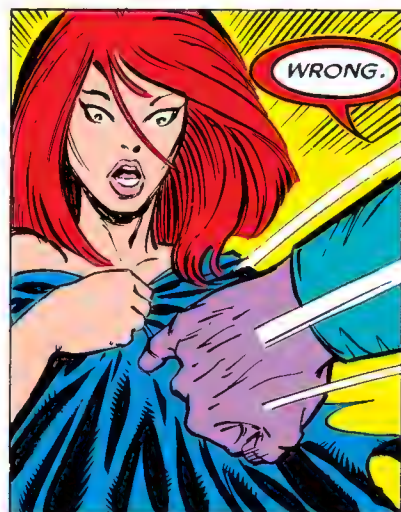
...THAN PLAY THE PERPETUAL VICTIM?

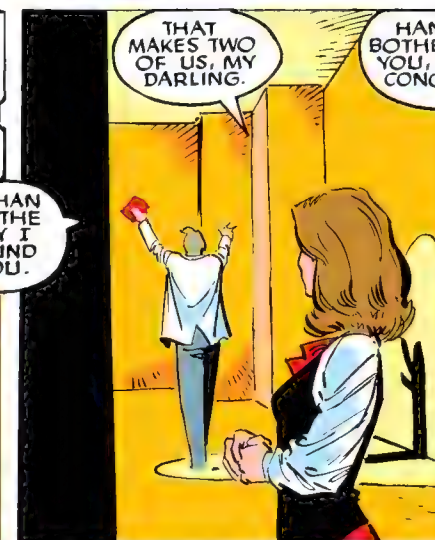
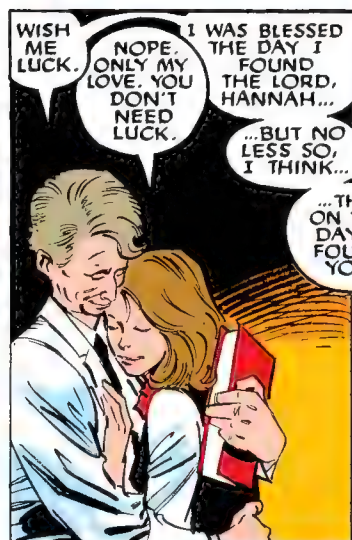
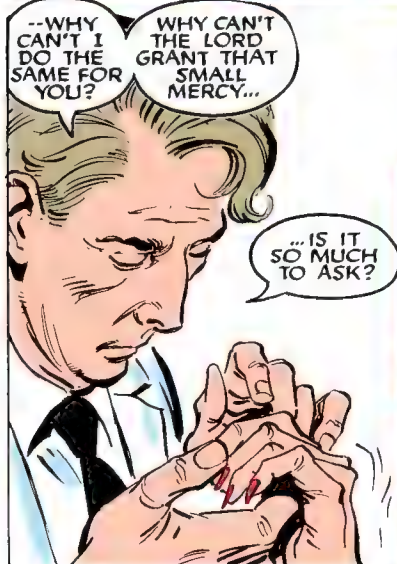
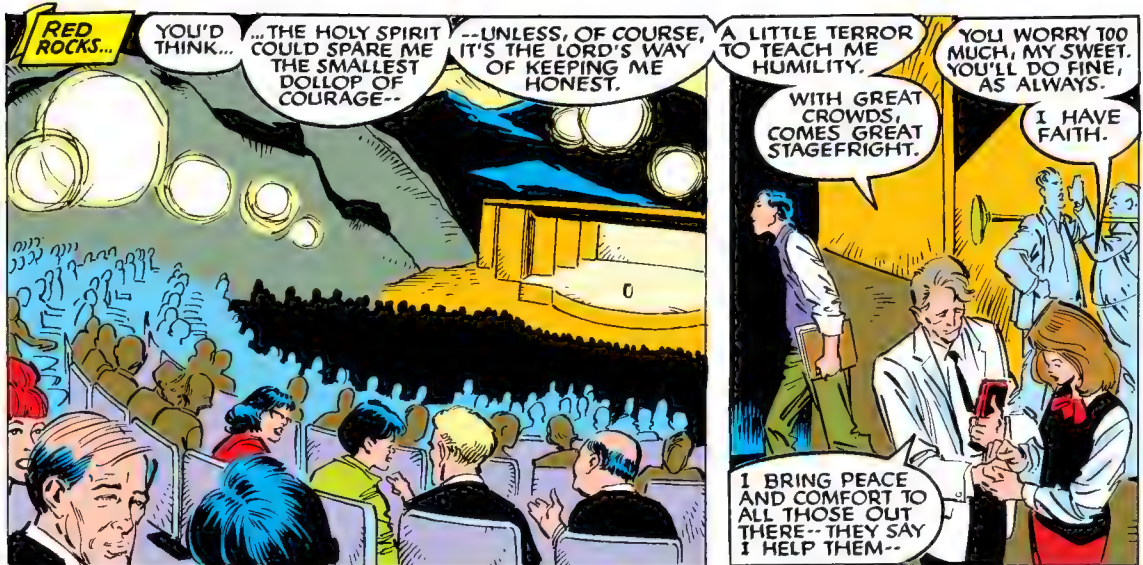


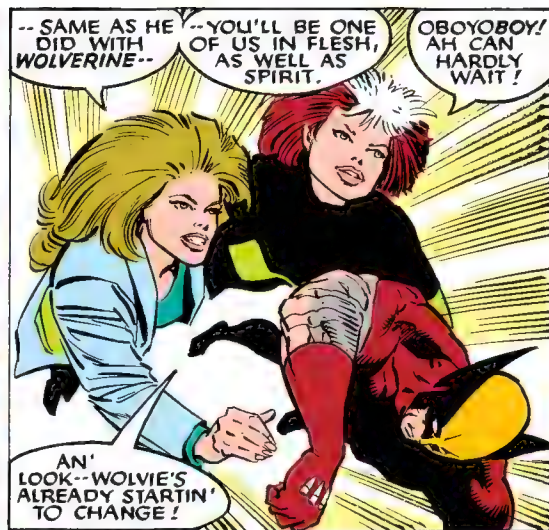
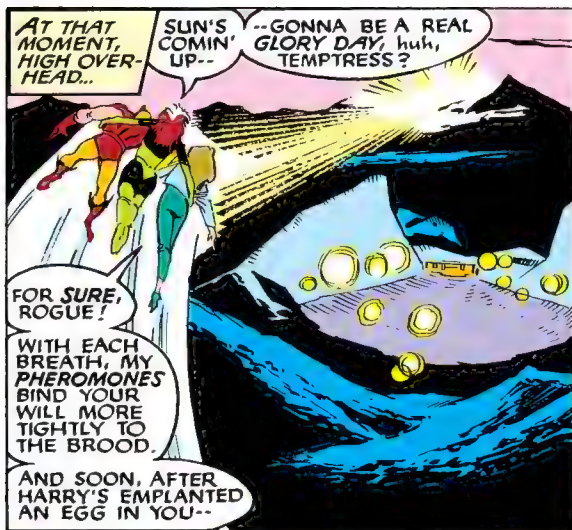
I'LL SURVIVE.

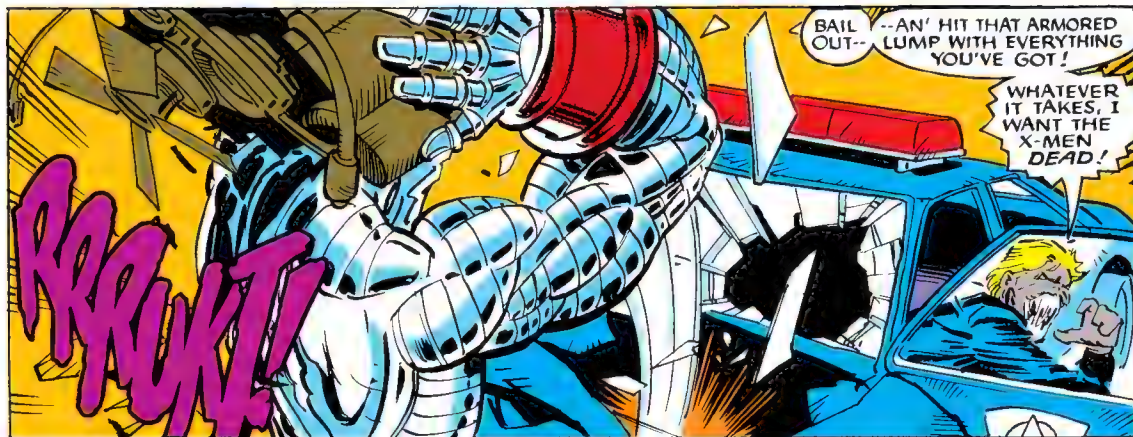
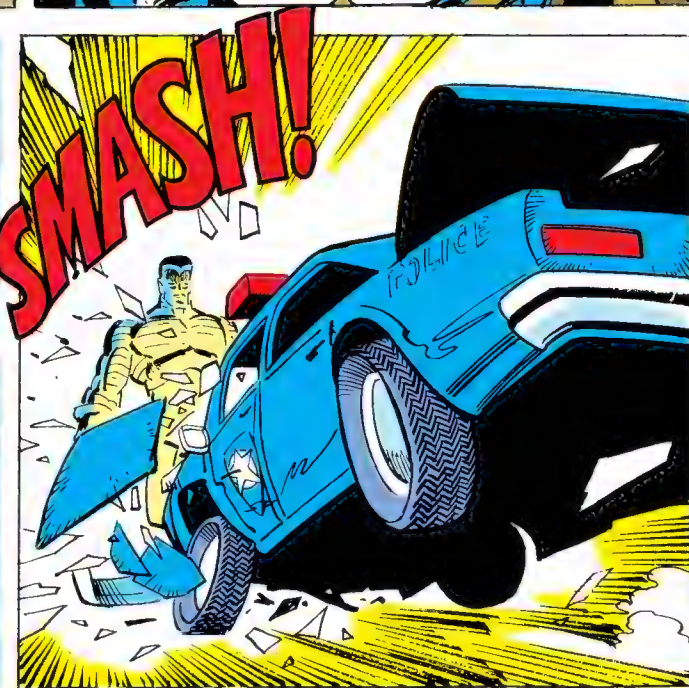
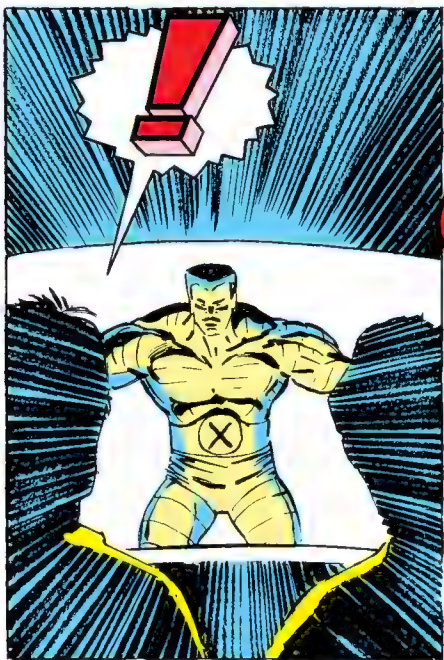
BULLY FOR YOU.

DON'T YOU YEARN FOR SOMETHING MORE?

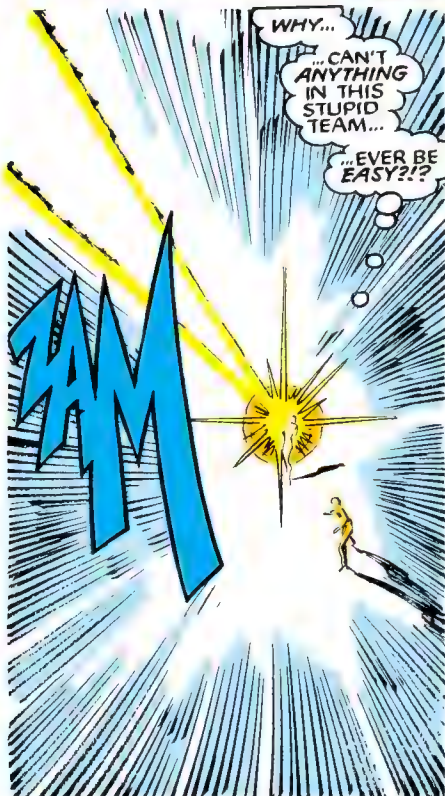
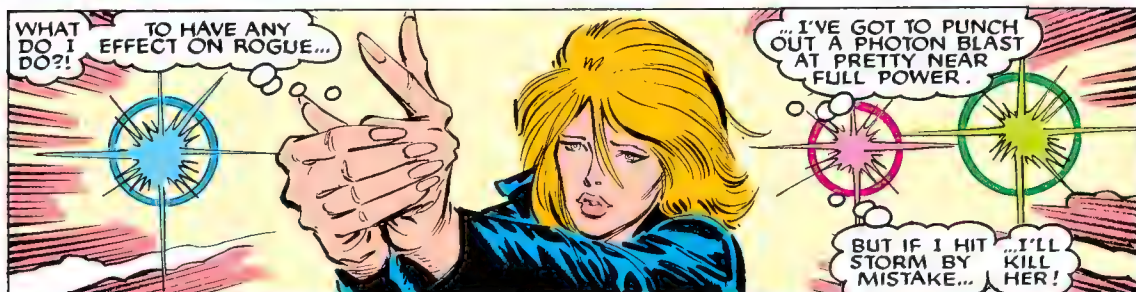
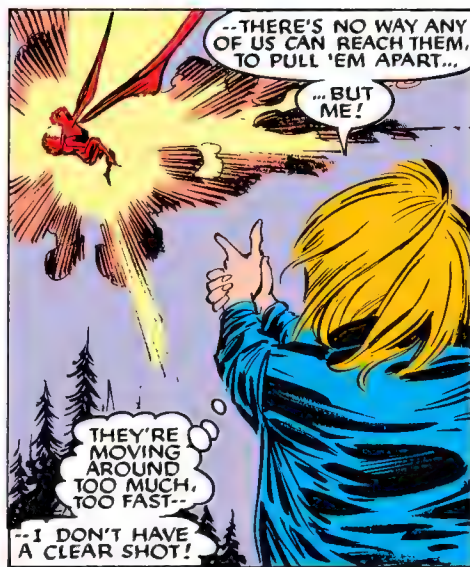
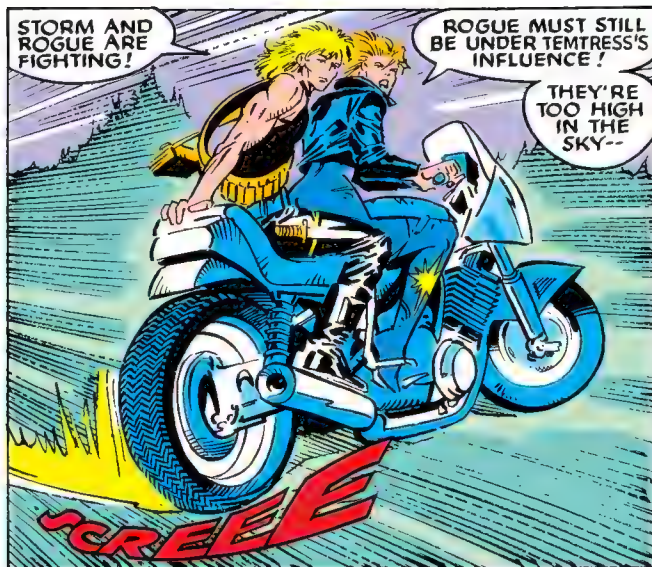


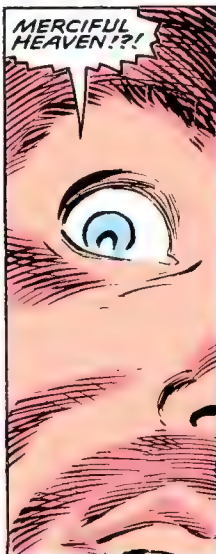


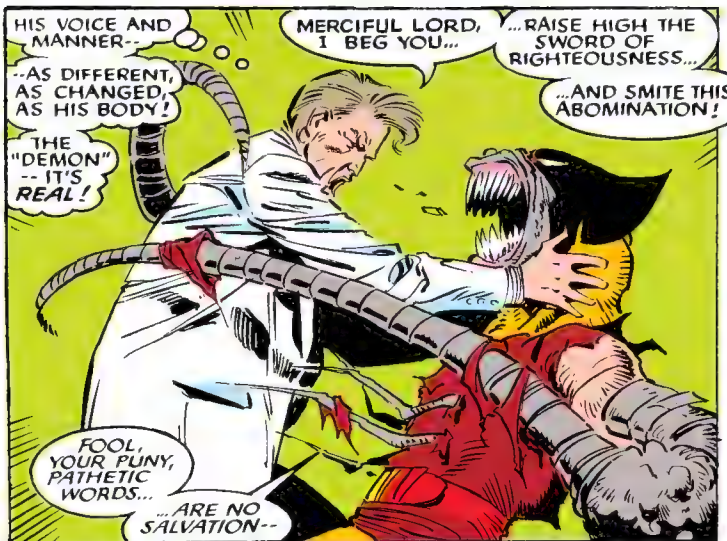


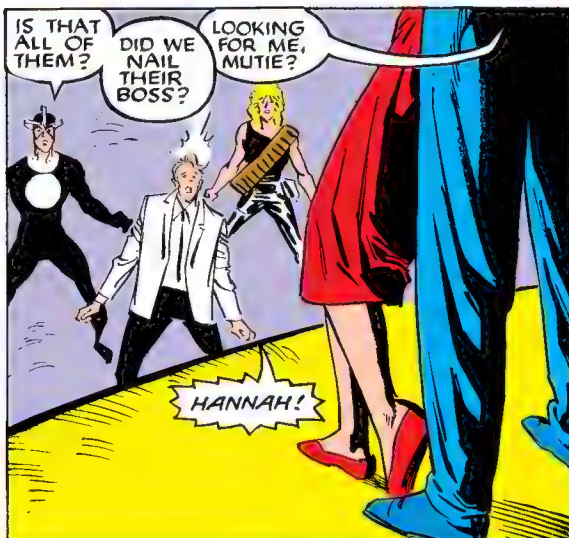
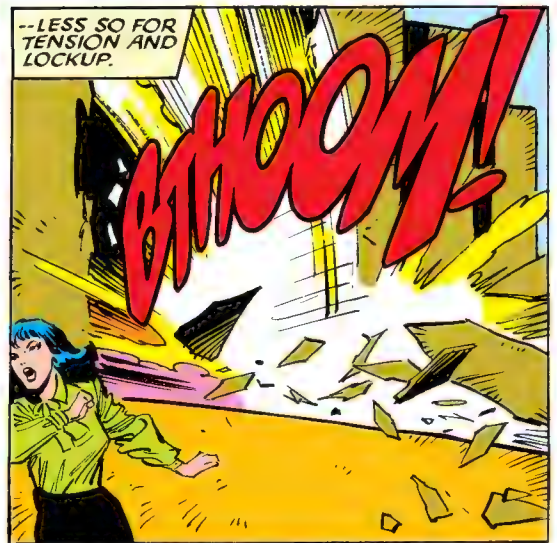
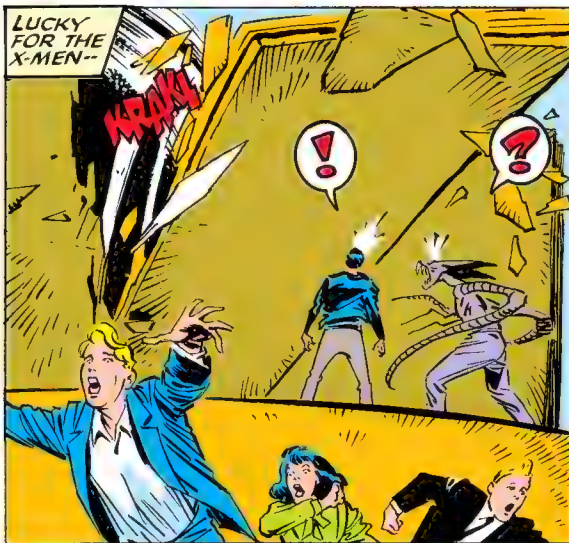


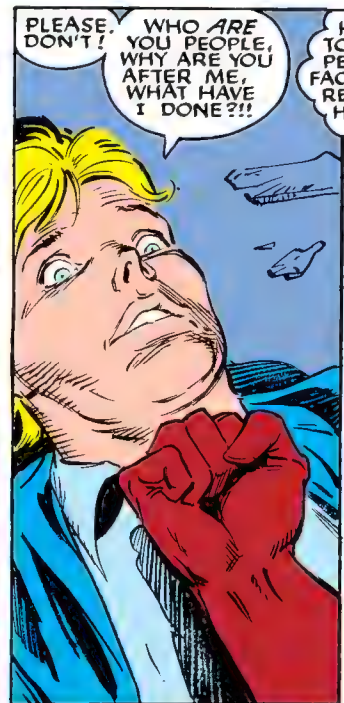
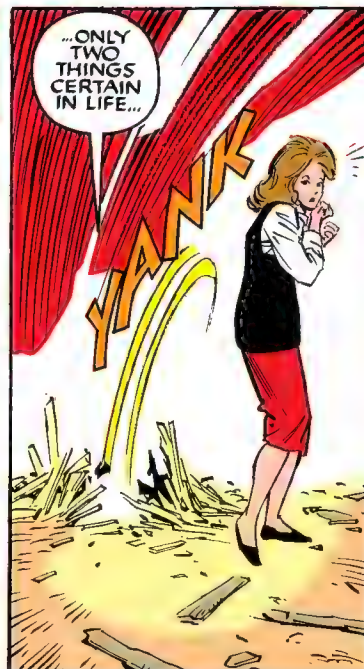
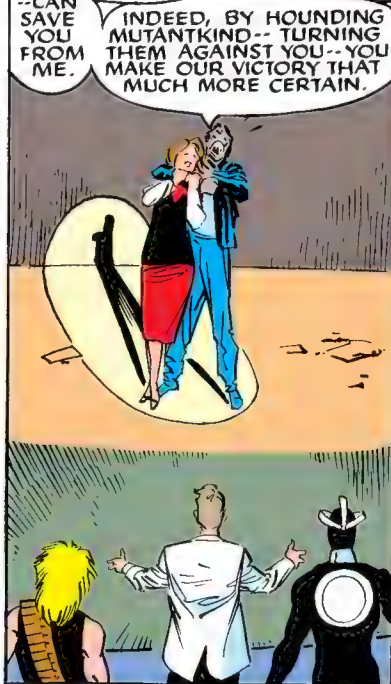


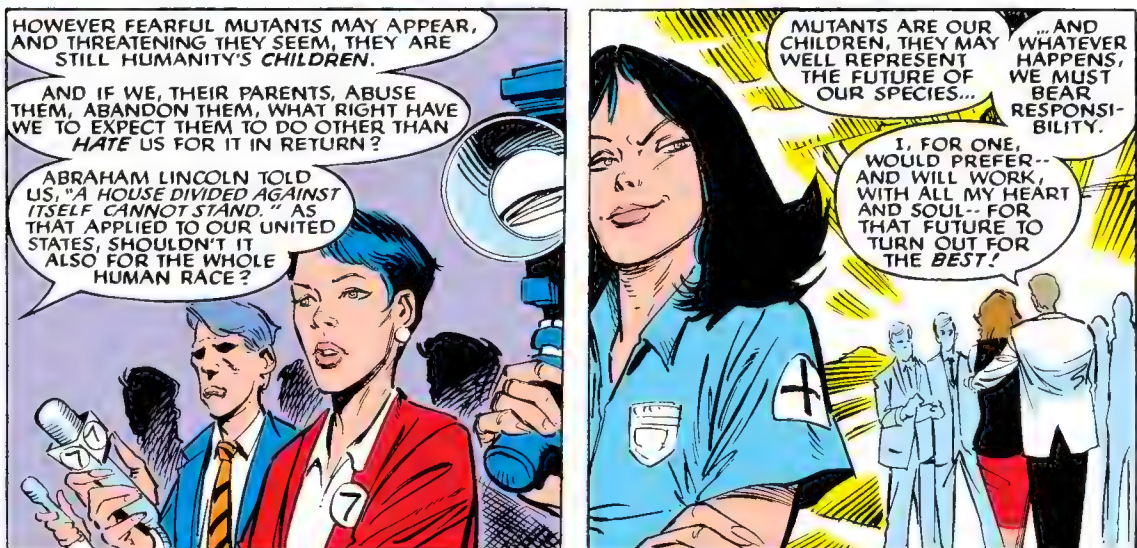
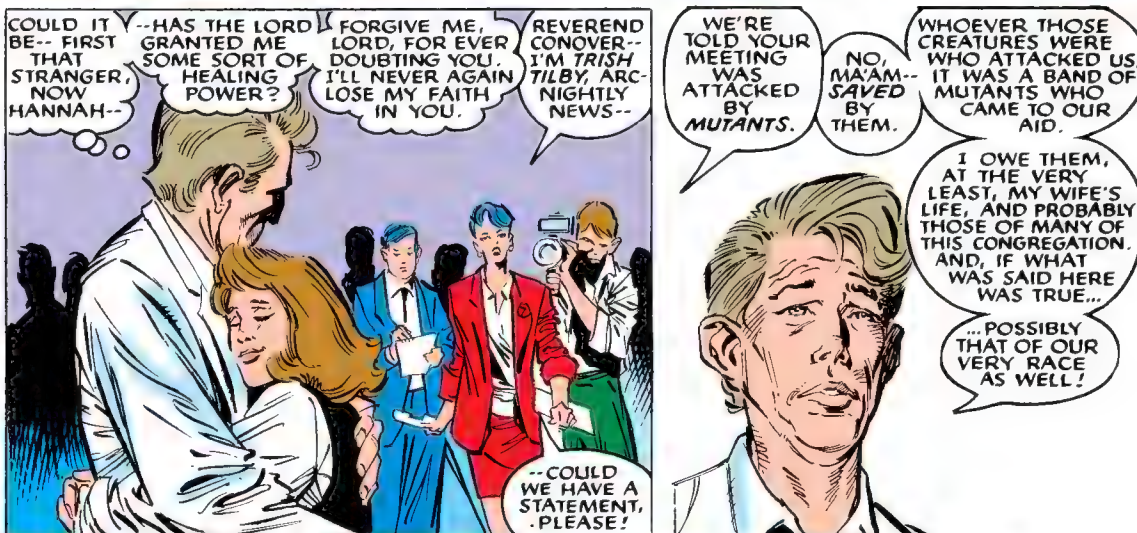
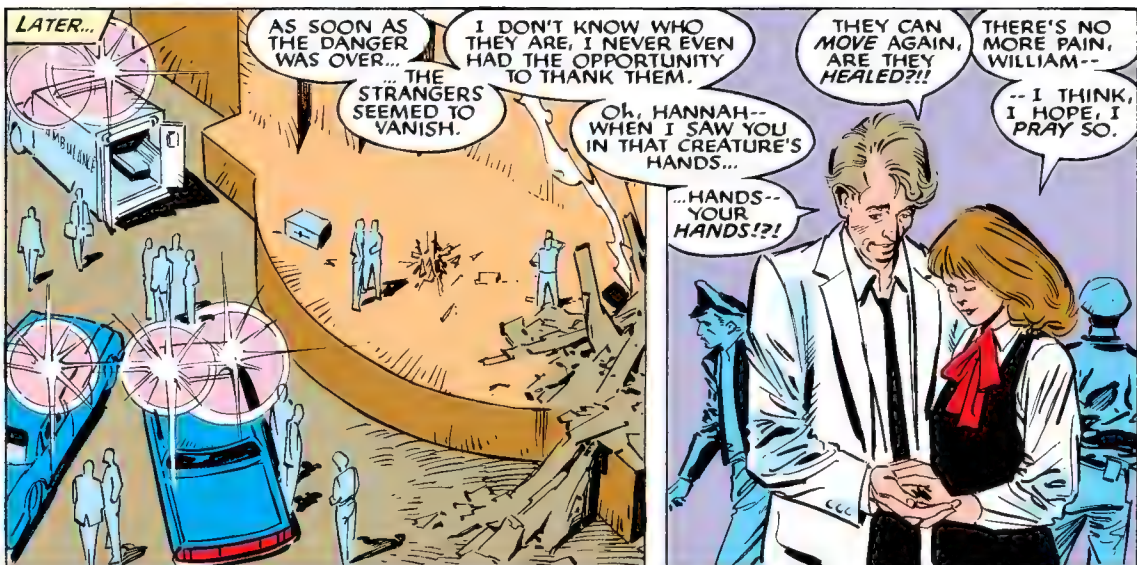










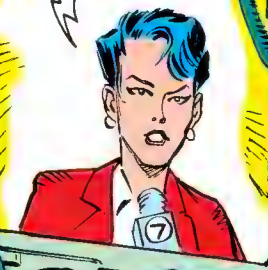


AUSTRALIA... WITH THOSE WORDS, REVEREND WILLIAM CONOVER PLACED HIMSELF AND HIS GLORY DAY MINISTRY...

...SQUARELY ON THE SIDE OF THE MUTANT RIGHTS MOVEMENT AND AGAINST THE MAIN-STREAM OF POPULAR AMERICAN OPINION.

WHAT REMAINS TO BE SEEN IS WHETHER THIS DECLARATION--THE FIRST SUCH BY ANY MAJOR RELIGIOUS OR POLITICAL FIGURE--WILL HAVE A MORE WIDE-SPREAD AND LASTING EFFECT.

IF THIS REPORTER MAY BE PERMITTED A PERSONAL OBSERVATION: I FERVENTLY HOPE SO.



"HOME AGAIN, HOME AGAIN, HUMBLE AS IT IS, NOthin' EVER JIGGETY-JIG." LOOKED BETTER.

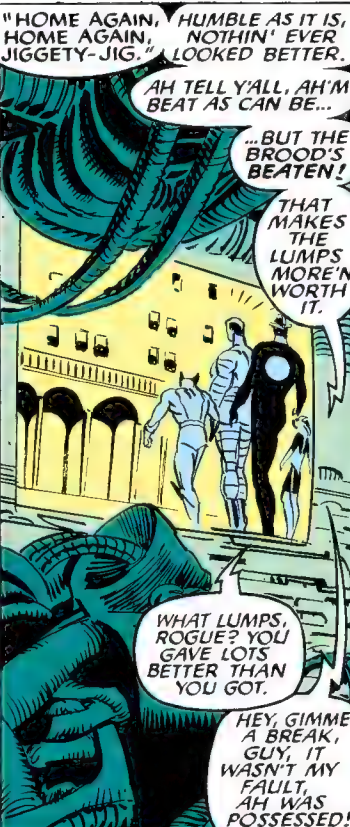
AH TELL Y'ALL, AH'M BEAT AS CAN BE...

...BUT THE BROOD'S BEATEN!

THAT MAKES THE LUMPS MORE'N WORTH IT.

WHAT LUMPS, ROGUE? YOU GAVE LOTS BETTER THAN YOU GOT.

HEY, GIMME A BREAK, GUY, IT WASN'T MY FAULT, AH WAS POSSESSED!



YOU DID GOOD, HAVOK.

WHY, BECAUSE I KILLED?

YOU DID WHAT HAD TO BE DONE.

AND THAT'S SUPPOSED TO MAKE ME FEEL PROUD?



SORRY, WOLVERINE, I'M AFRAID ALL I FEEL RIGHT NOW...

...IS SICK.

AND SO, THE X-MEN RETURN, TO THEIR TOWN WHERE NOTHING IS WHAT IT SEEMS...

...CELEBRATING THEIR VICTORY ABOVE...



... WHILE BLISSFULLY UNAWARE OF THE NIGHTMARE SPAWNING BELOW...

... WHERE MADELYNE PRYOR LIES...

... MORE THAN ALIVE, LESS THAN DEAD...

... TRANSFIGURED BY A DREAM...

... THAT'S FAST ON THE WAY TO BECOMING REALITY.

NEXT: A GREEN & PLEASANT LAND ON SALE IN TWO WEEKS!



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THE

X-MEN

64
PAGES

THE EVOLUTIONARY WAR



GUEST-STARRING
THE
X-BABIES!!!!

STAN LEE
PRESENTS

RESURRECTION!!

WIND
HOWLS.

THUNDER
BOOMS.

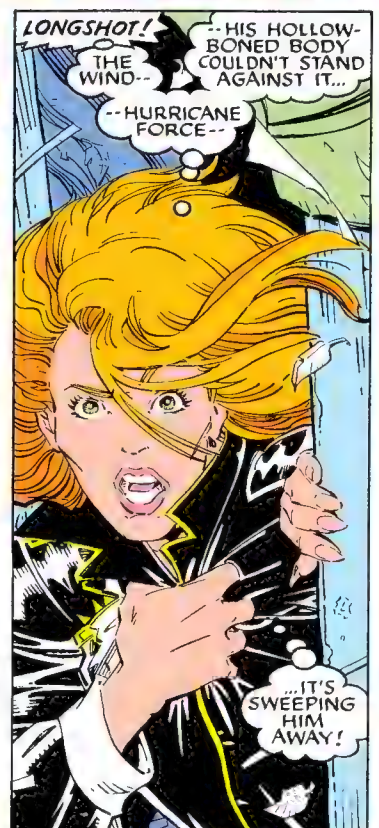
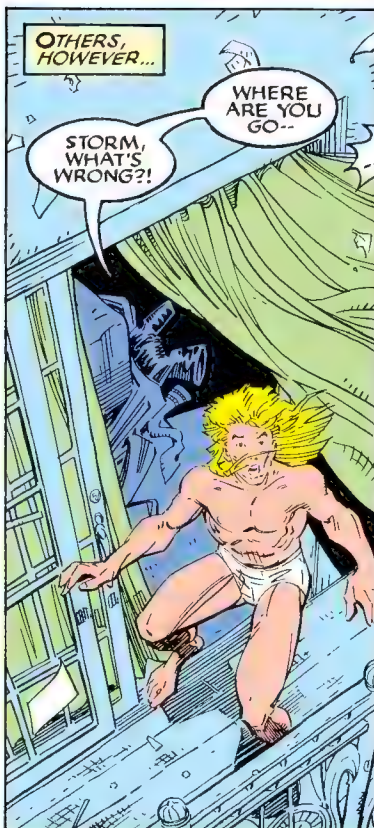
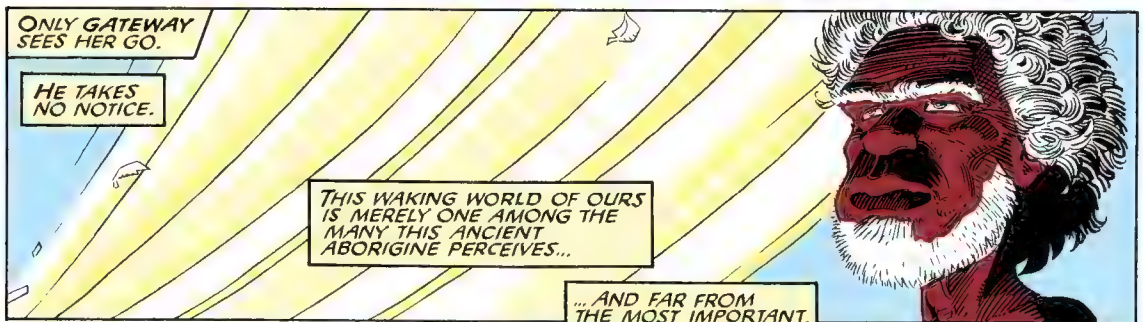
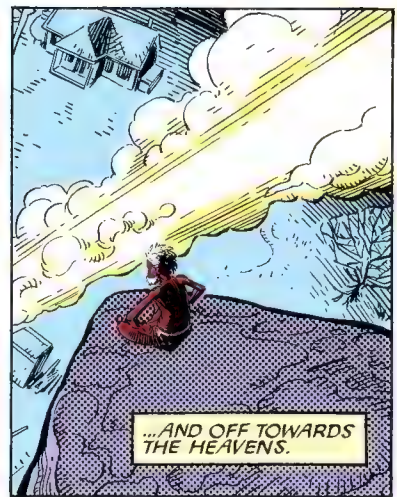
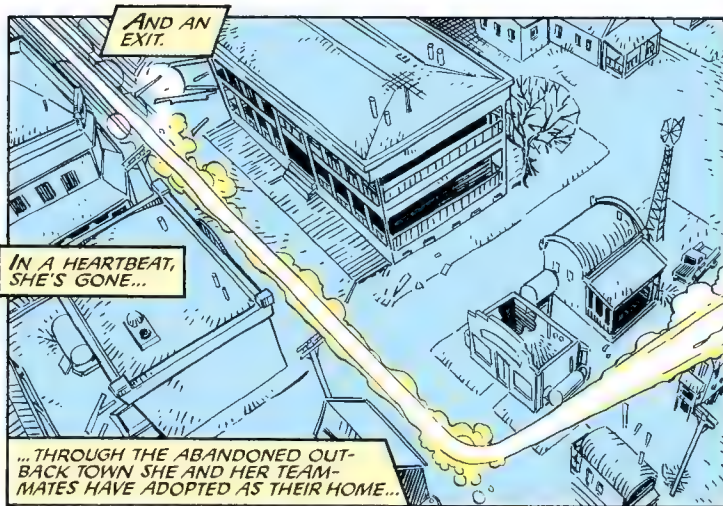
LIGHTNING
SPLITS THE SKY--

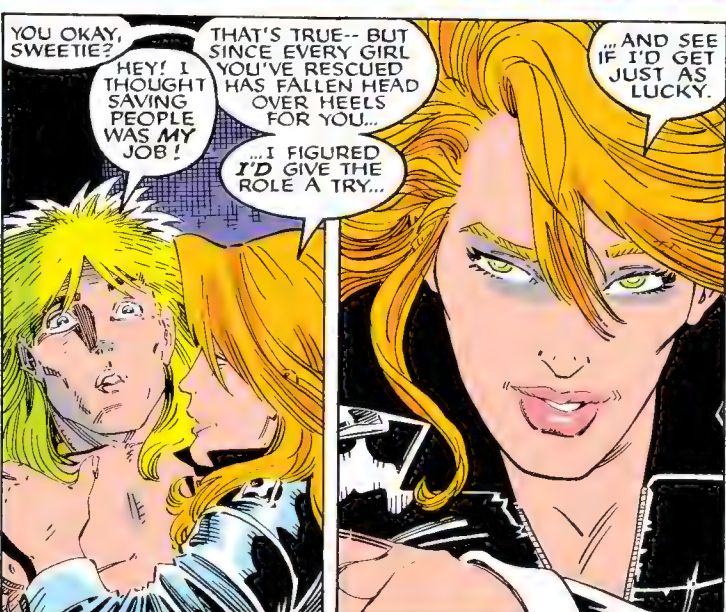
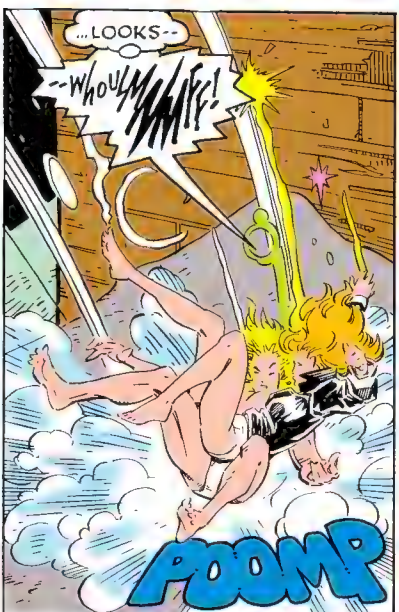
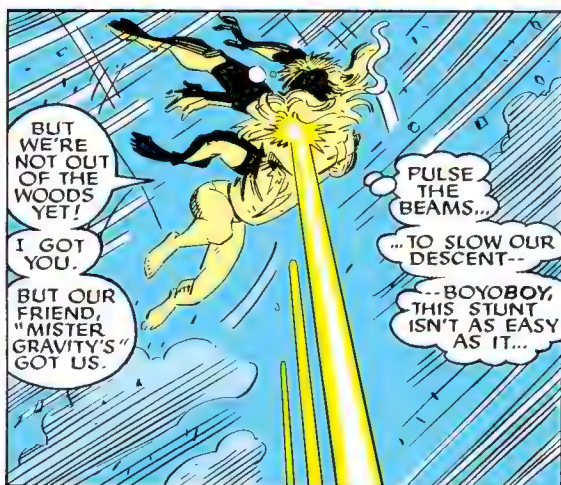
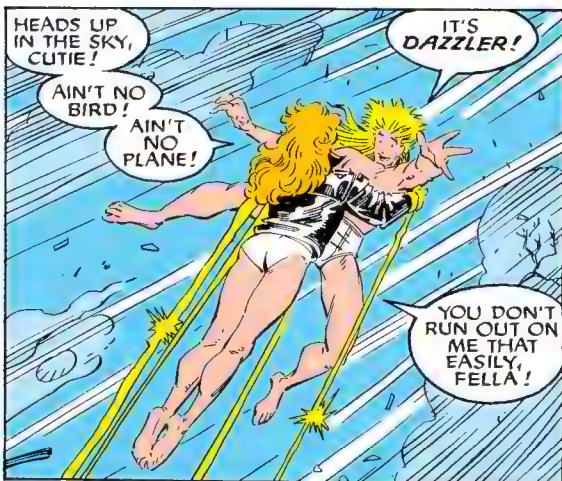
AN
ADVENTURE
OF THE
UNCANNY
X-MEN
BY
**CHRIS
CLAREMONT**
WRITER
**ART
ADAMS**
PENCILER
**BOB
WIACEK**
INKER

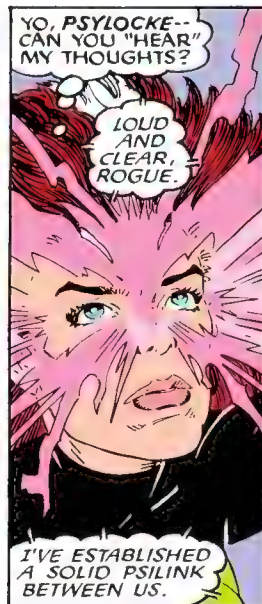
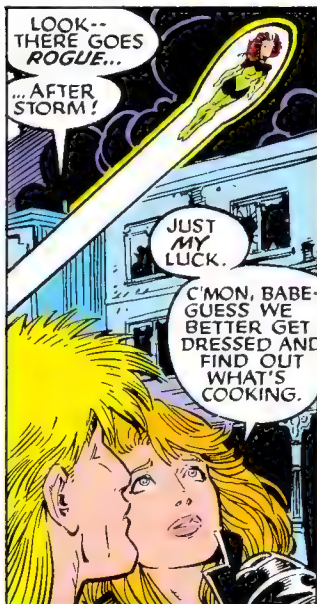
GLYNIS OLIVER, colorist
TOM ORZECZOWSKI, letterer
BOB HARRAS, editor
TOM DeFALCO, chief

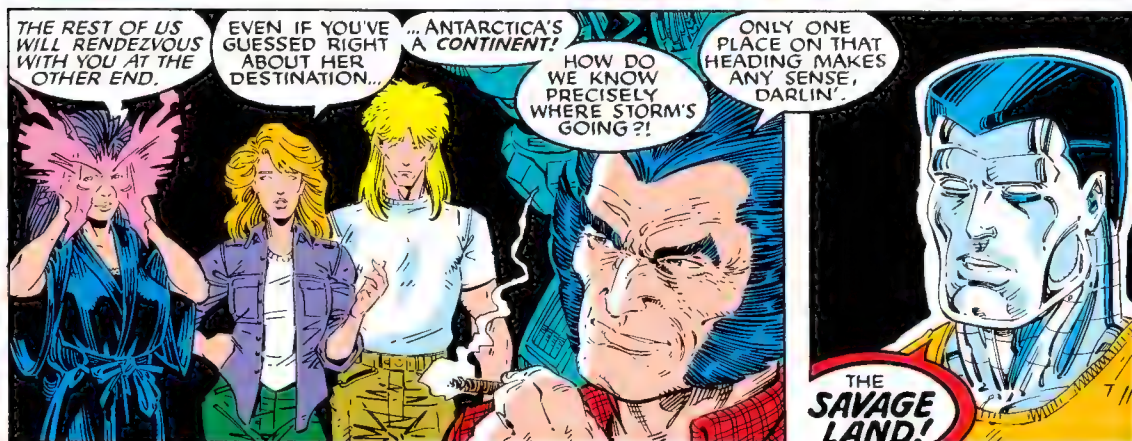
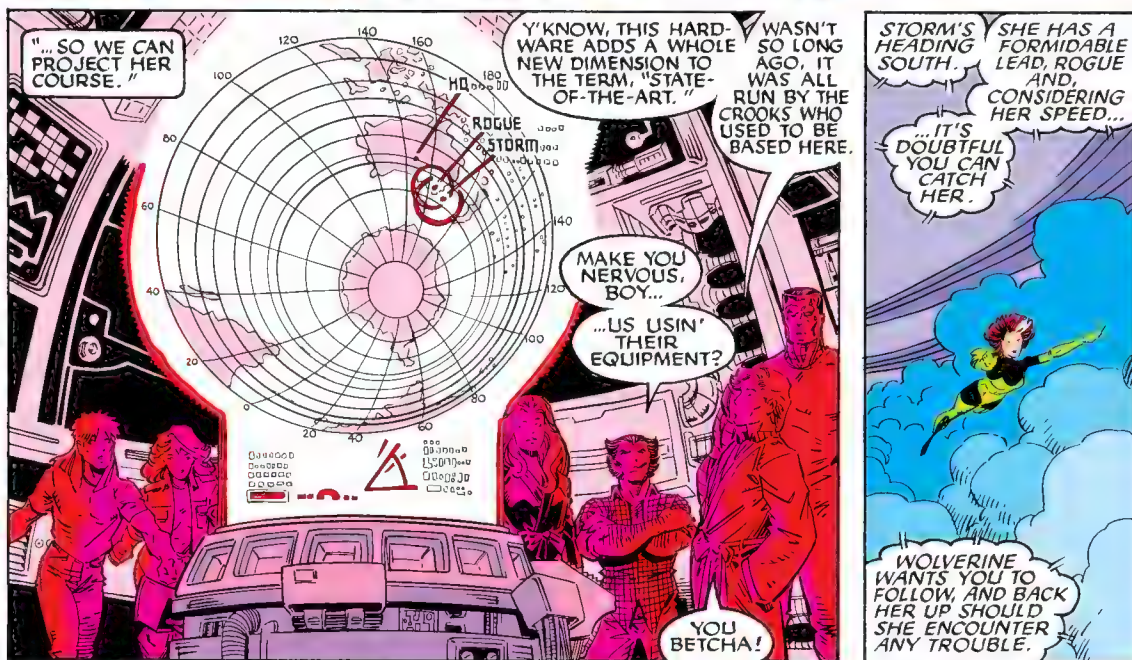
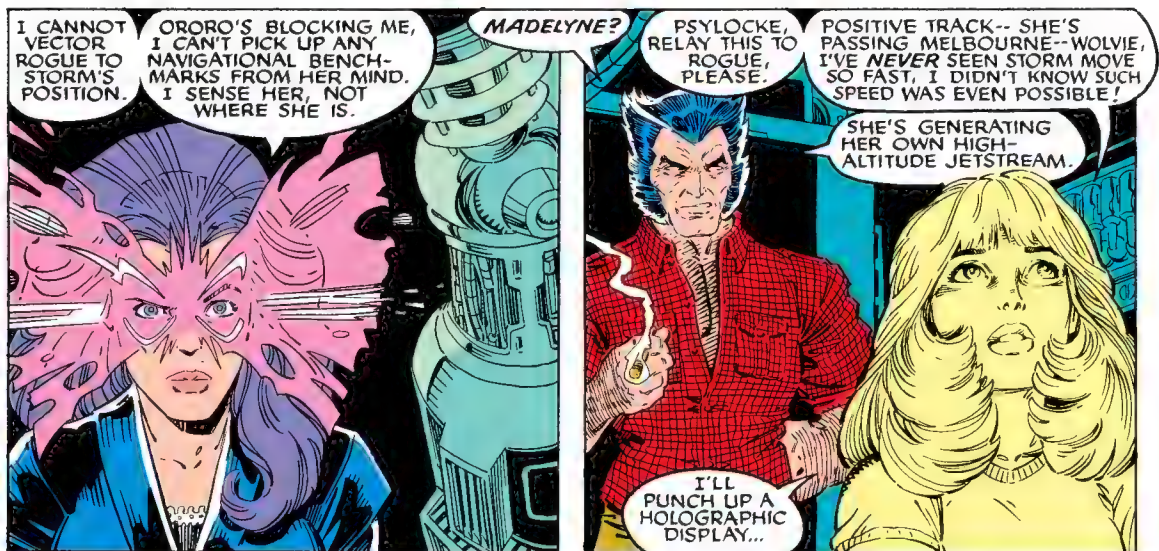
-- STROBE-SPLASHING
MIDNIGHT BRIGHTER
THAN NOON.

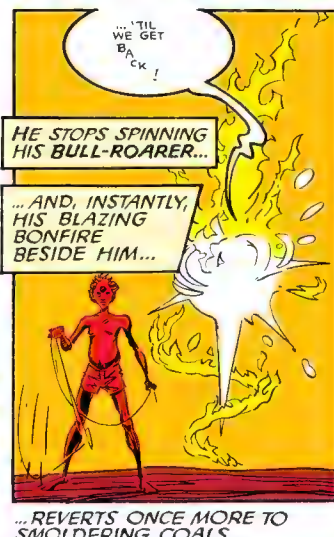
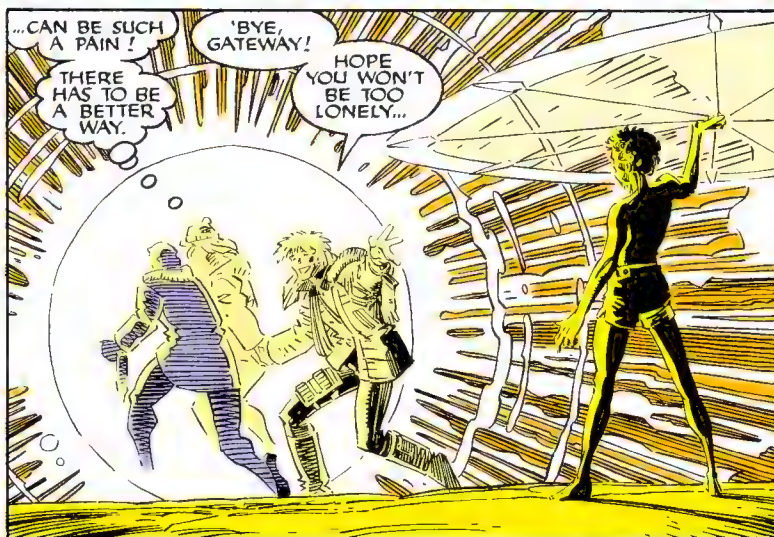
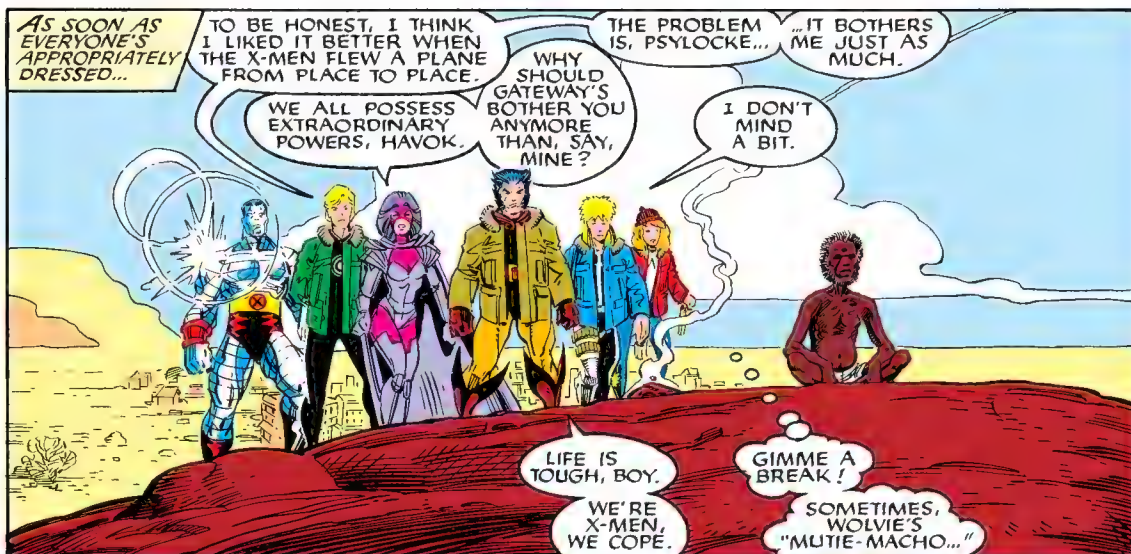
STORM'S AN
X-MAN WHO
KNOWS HOW
TO MAKE AN
ENTRANCE.





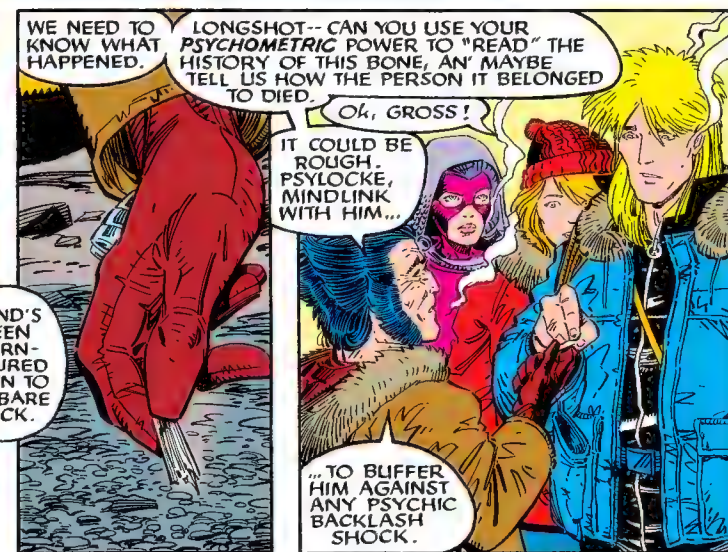
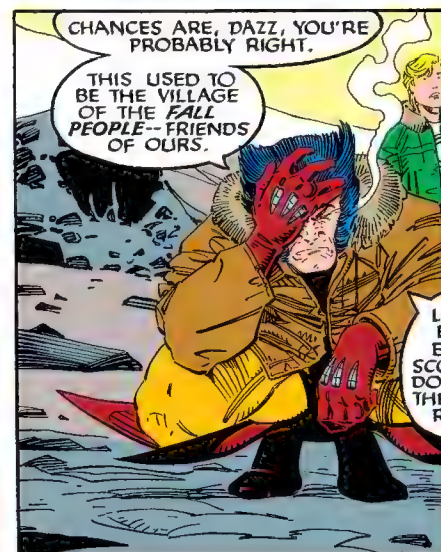
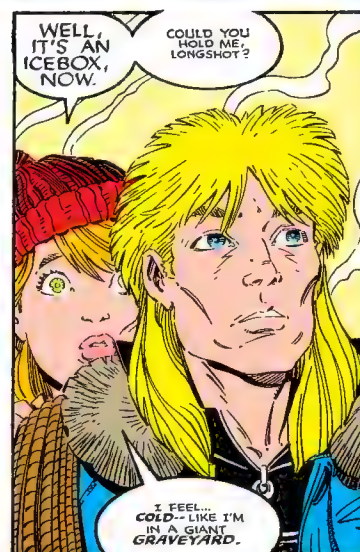
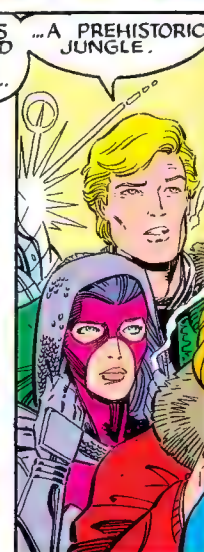
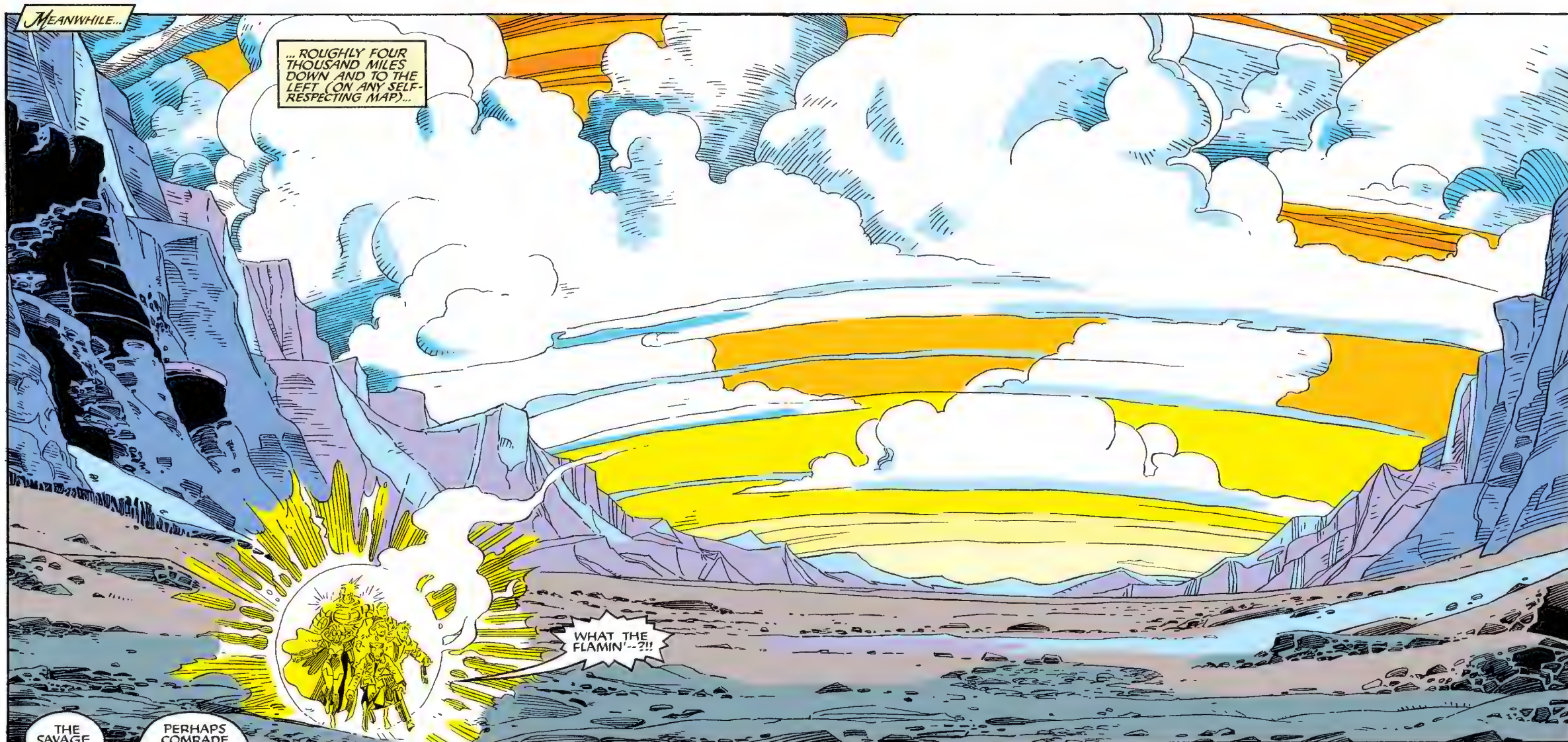


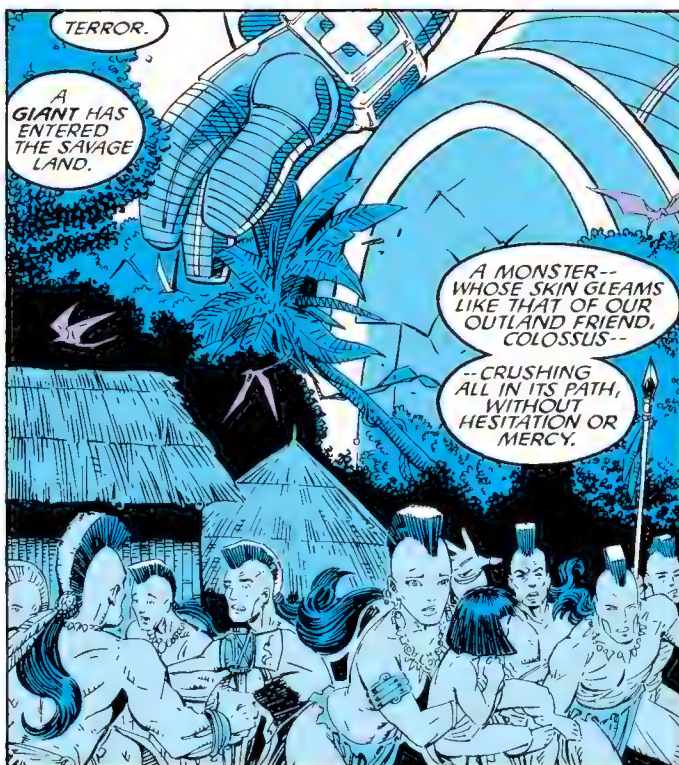
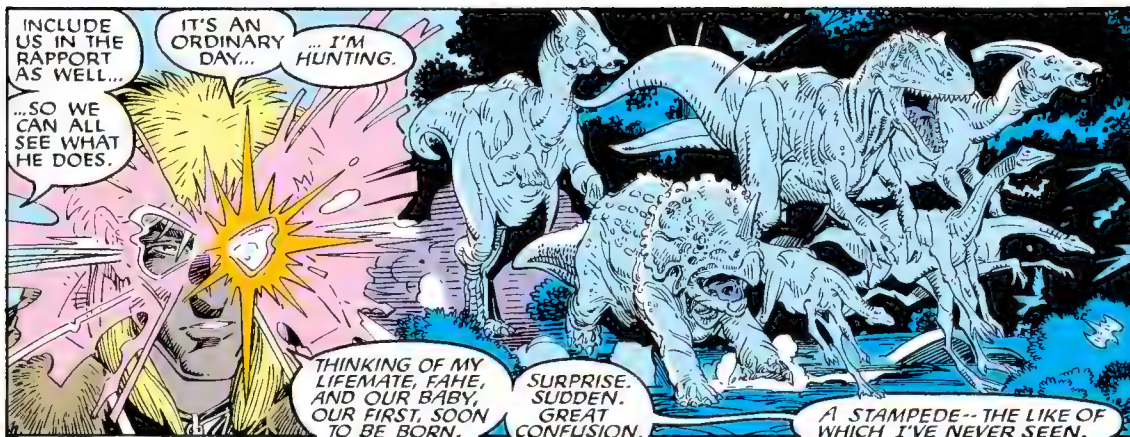


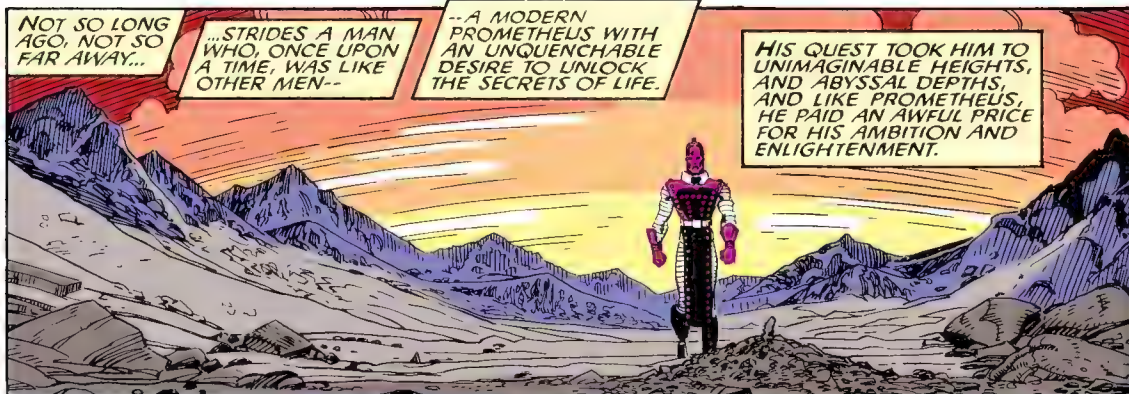


AND THE PORTAL CLOSES, SILENCE AND SOLITUDE RETURNING TO THIS ETERNAL PLACE...







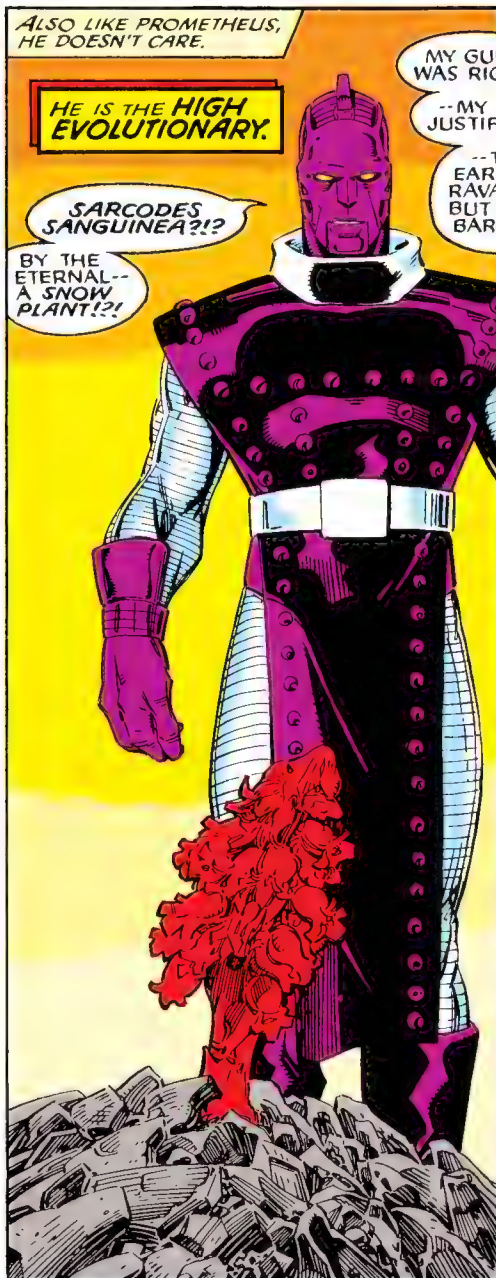


NOT SO LONG
AGO, NOT SO
FAR AWAY...

...STRIDES A MAN
WHO, ONCE UPON
A TIME, WAS LIKE
OTHER MEN--

--A MODERN
PROMETHEUS WITH
AN UNQUENCHABLE
DESIRE TO UNLOCK
THE SECRETS OF LIFE.

HIS QUEST TOOK HIM TO
UNIMAGINABLE HEIGHTS,
AND ABYSSAL DEPTHS,
AND LIKE PROMETHEUS,
HE PAID AN AWFUL PRICE
FOR HIS AMBITION AND
ENLIGHTENMENT.



ALSO LIKE PROMETHEUS,
HE DOESN'T CARE.

HE IS THE HIGH
EVOLUTIONARY.

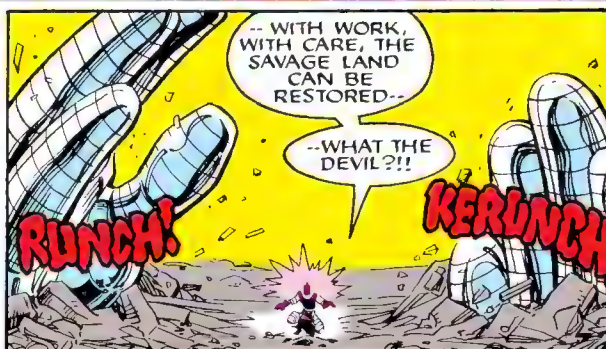
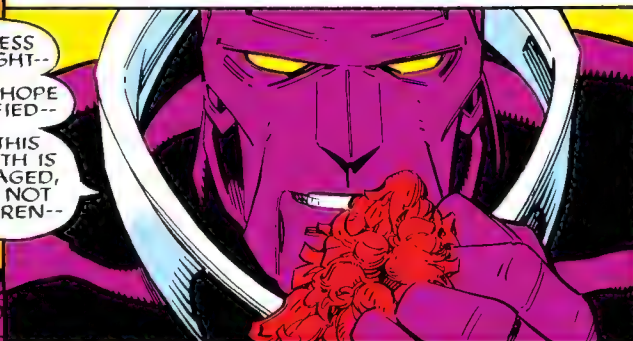
SARCODES
SANGUINEA?!?

BY THE
ETERNAL--
A SNOW
PLANT!?!

MY GUESS
WAS RIGHT--

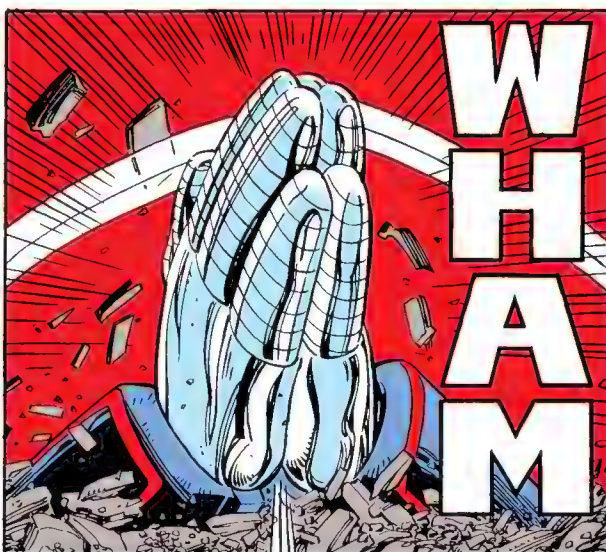
--MY HOPE
JUSTIFIED--

--THIS
EARTH IS
RAVAGED,
BUT NOT
BARREN--

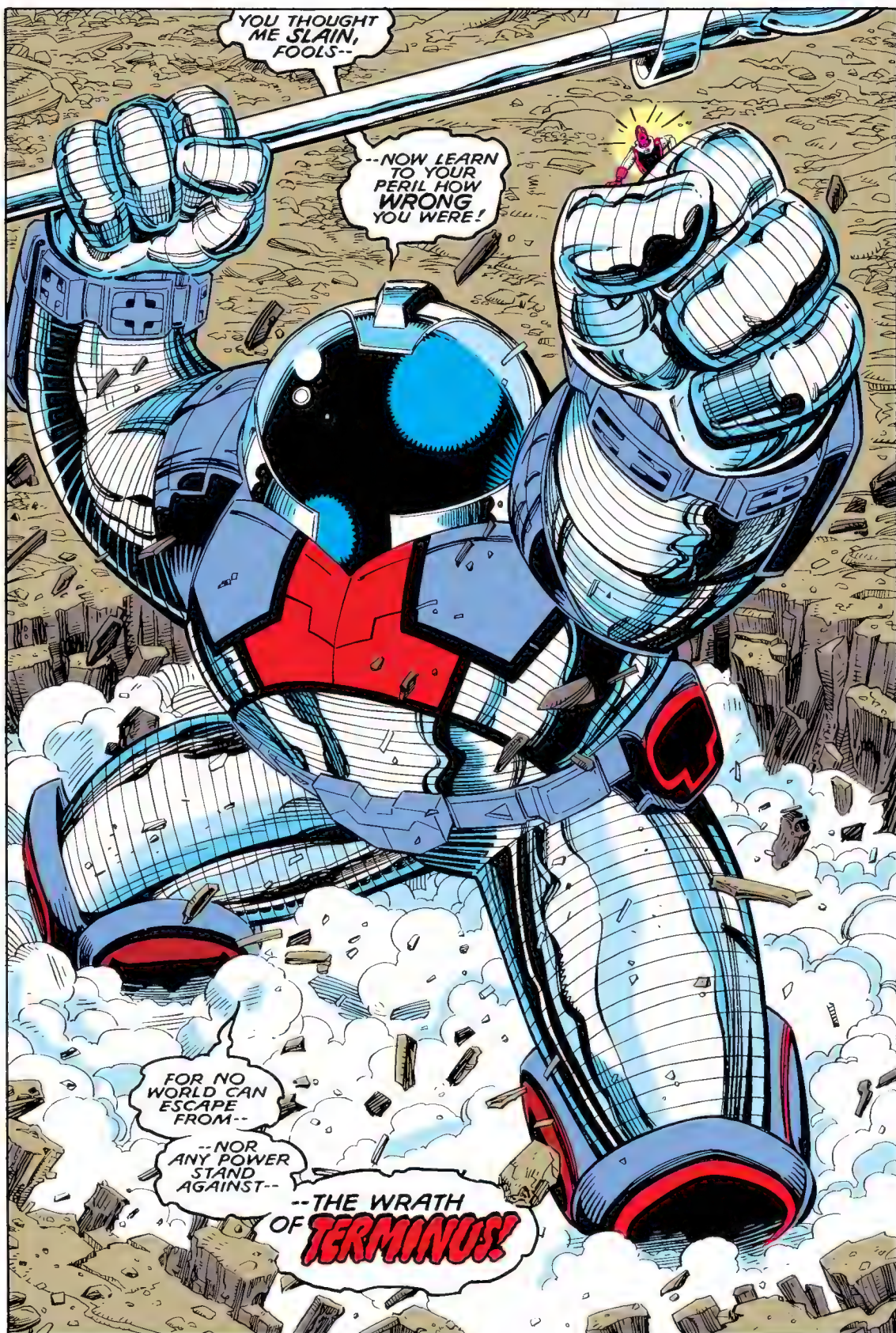


-- WITH WORK,
WITH CARE, THE
SAVAGE LAND
CAN BE
RESTORED--

--WHAT THE
DEVIL?!?



W
H
A
M



YOU THOUGHT
ME SLAIN,
FOOLS--

--NOW LEARN
TO YOUR
PERIL HOW
WRONG
YOU WERE!

FOR NO
WORLD CAN
ESCAPE
FROM--

--NOR
ANY POWER
STAND
AGAINST--

--THE WRATH
OF
TERMINUS!

BUT THEN...

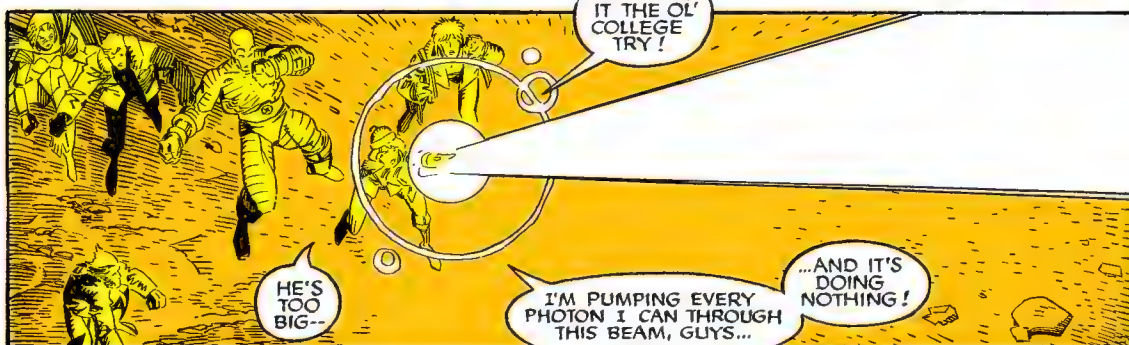


A BEAM OF SOLID LIGHT!

ARE THE NATIVES OF THIS PATHETIC PLANET STILL DETERMINED TO MATCH THEIR PUNY MIGHT AGAINST MINE?!

WE SURE AIM...

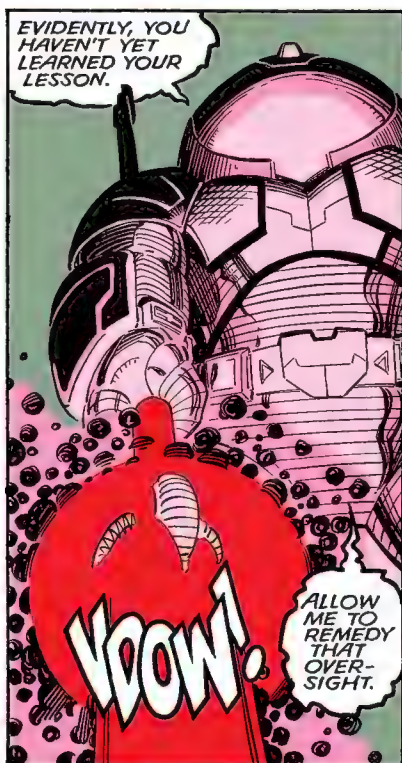
...TO GIVE IT THE OL' COLLEGE TRY!



HE'S TOO BIG--

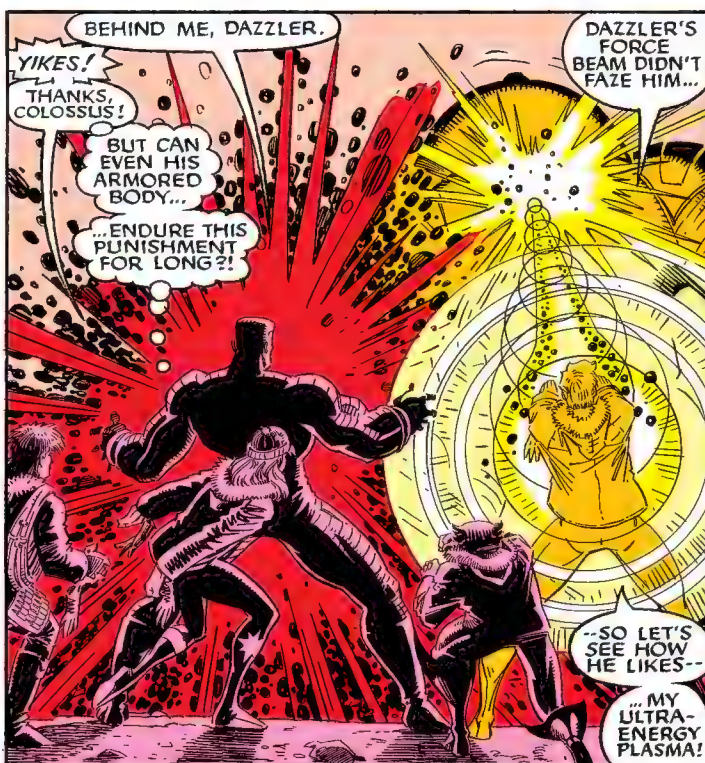
I'M PUMPING EVERY PHOTON I CAN THROUGH THIS BEAM, GUYS...

...AND IT'S DOING NOTHING!



EVIDENTLY, YOU HAVEN'T YET LEARNED YOUR LESSON.

ALLOW ME TO REMEDY THAT OVER-SIGHT.



BEHIND ME, DAZZLER.

YIKES!
THANKS, COLOSSUS!

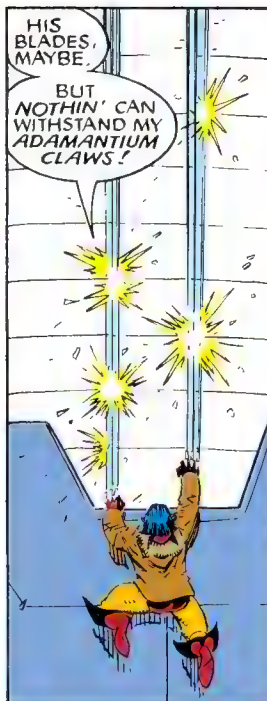
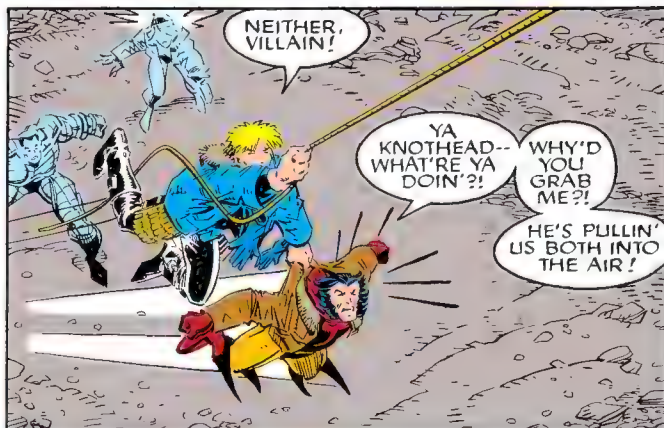
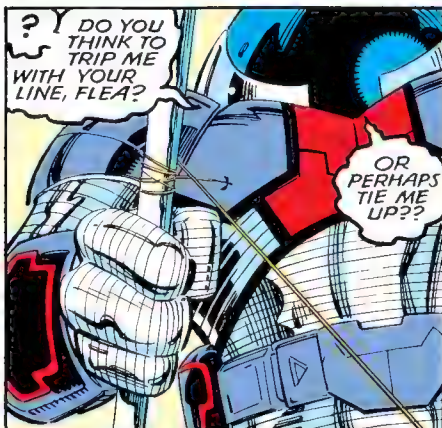
BUT CAN EVEN HIS ARMORED BODY...

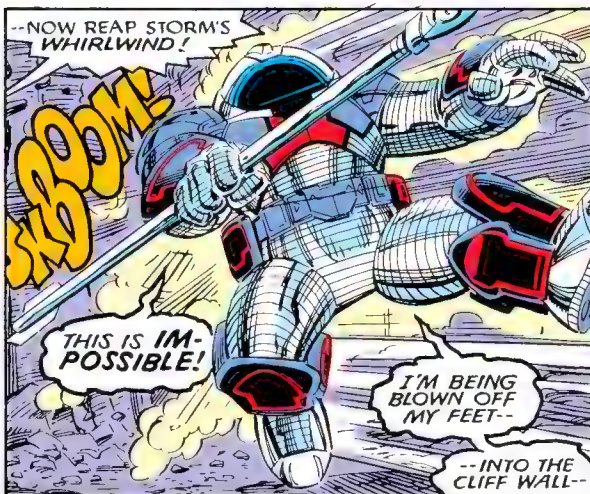
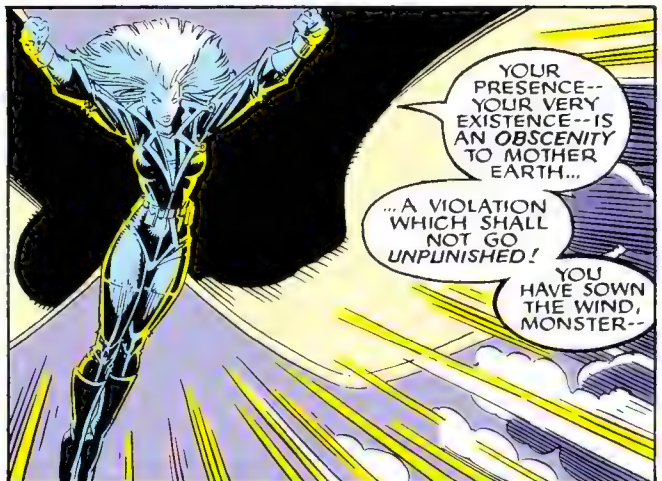
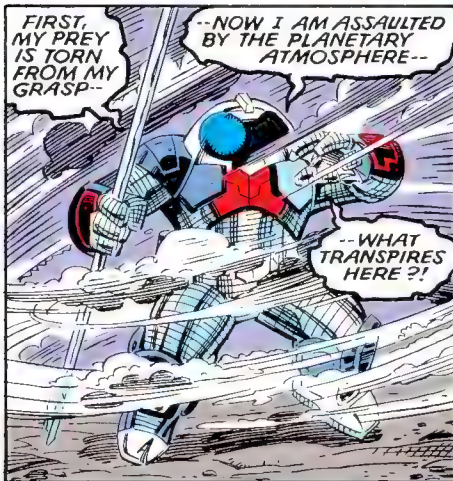
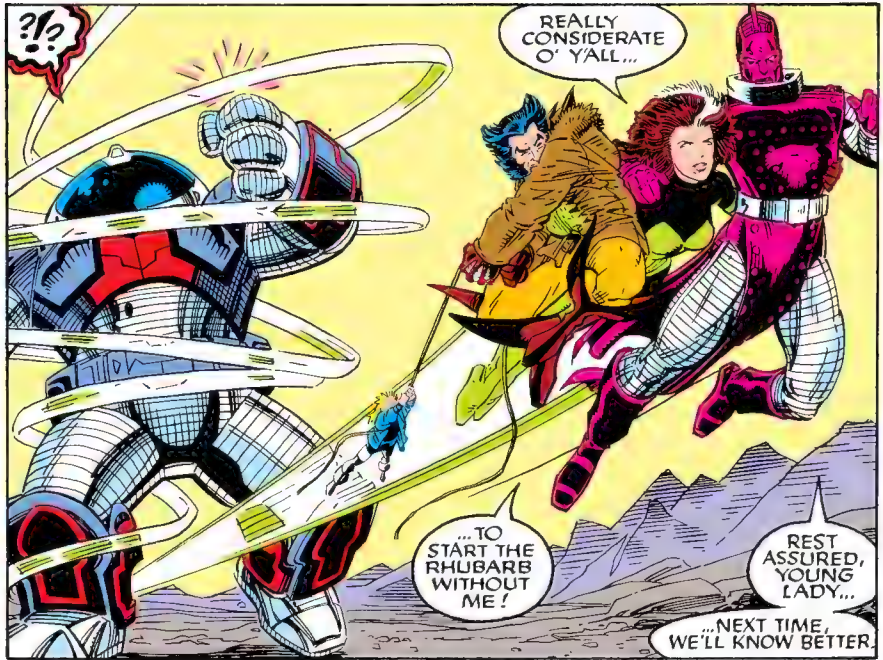
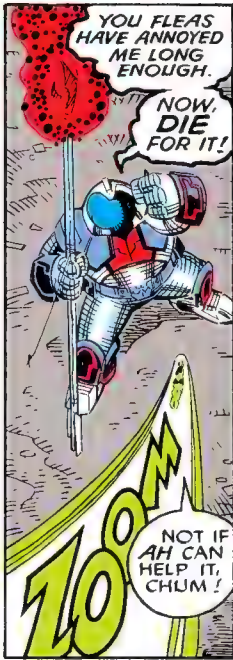
...ENDURE THIS PUNISHMENT FOR LONG?!

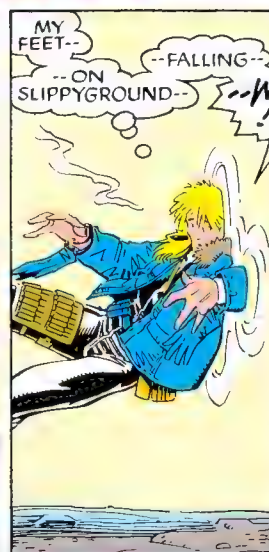
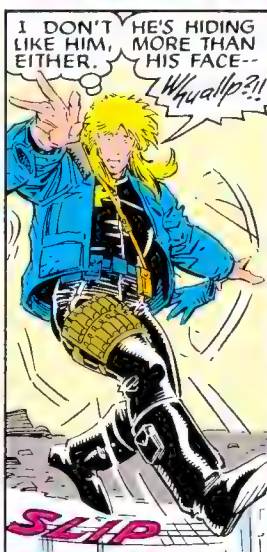
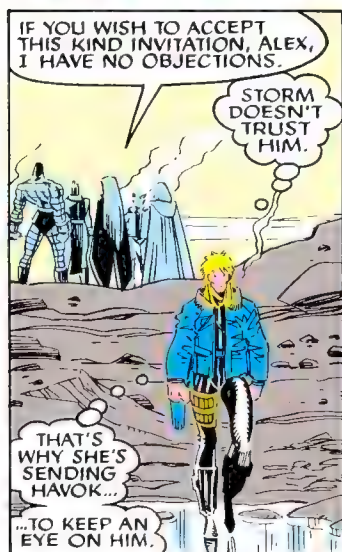
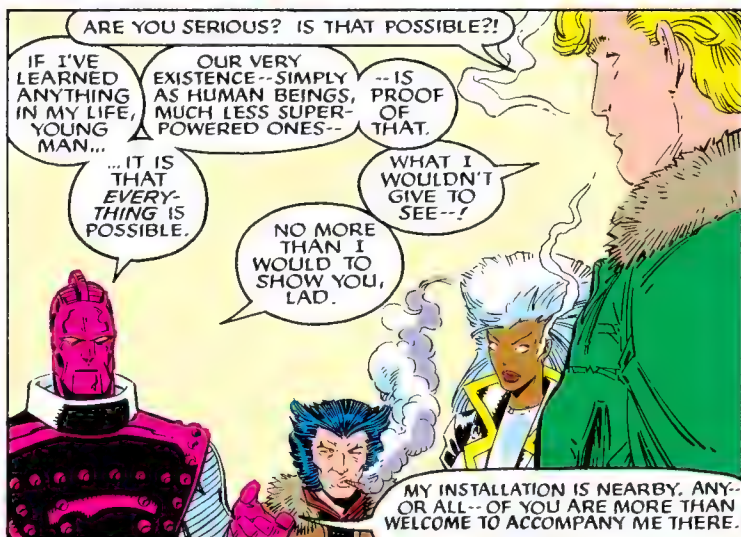
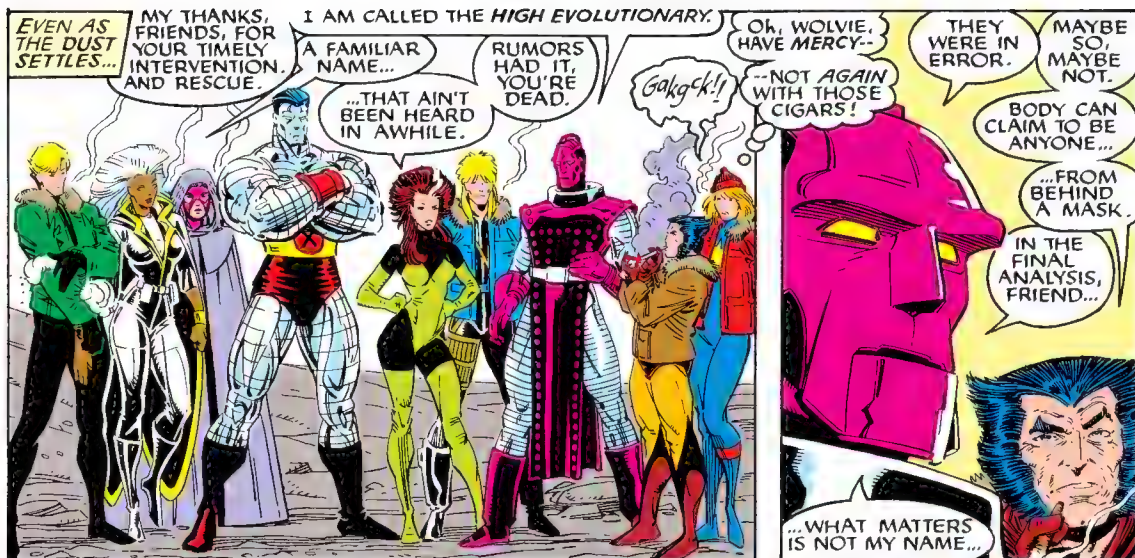
DAZZLER'S FORCE BEAM DIDN'T FAZE HIM...

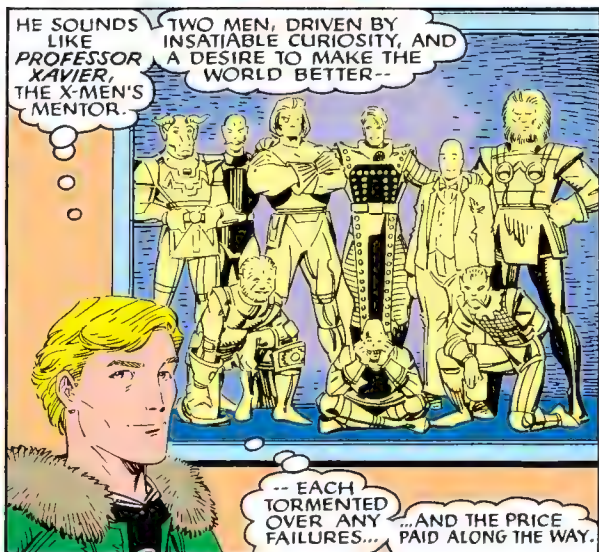
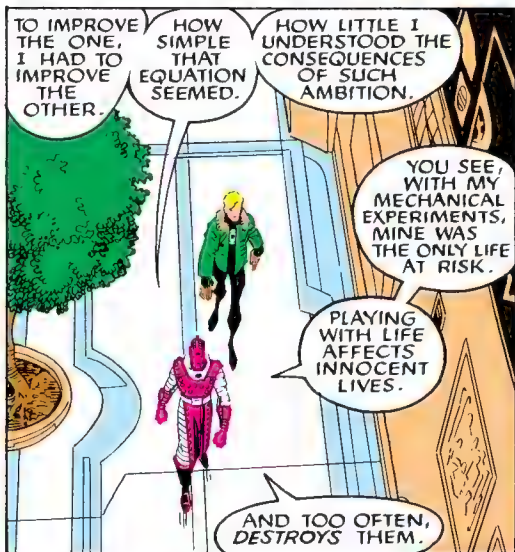
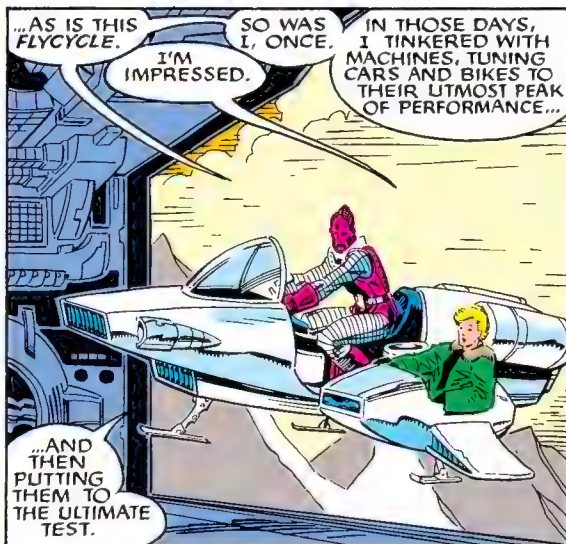
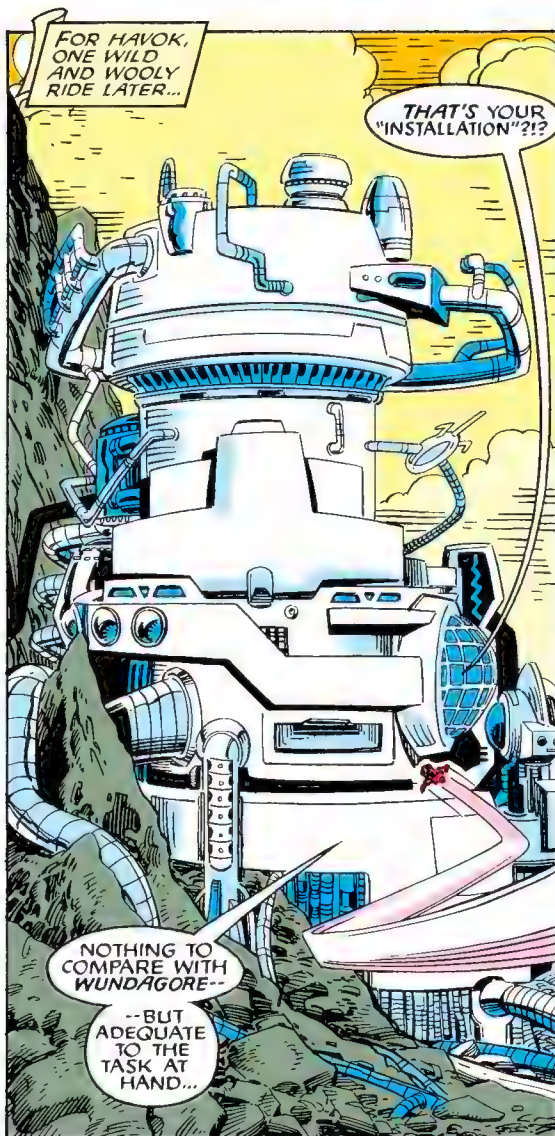
--SO LET'S SEE HOW HE LIKES--

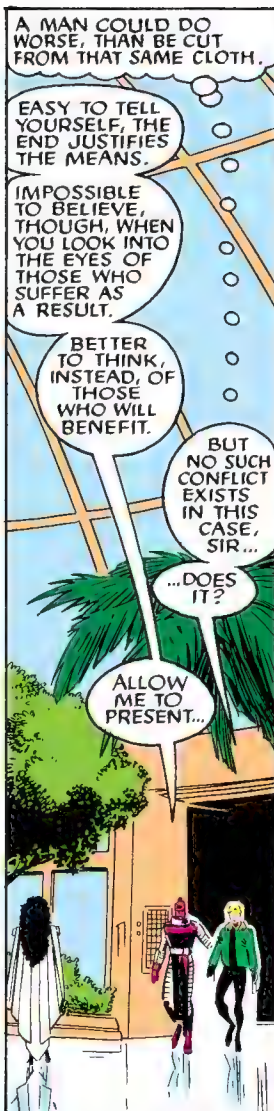
...MY ULTRA-ENERGY PLASMA!











A MAN COULD DO WORSE, THAN BE CUT FROM THAT SAME CLOTH.

EASY TO TELL YOURSELF, THE END JUSTIFIES THE MEANS.

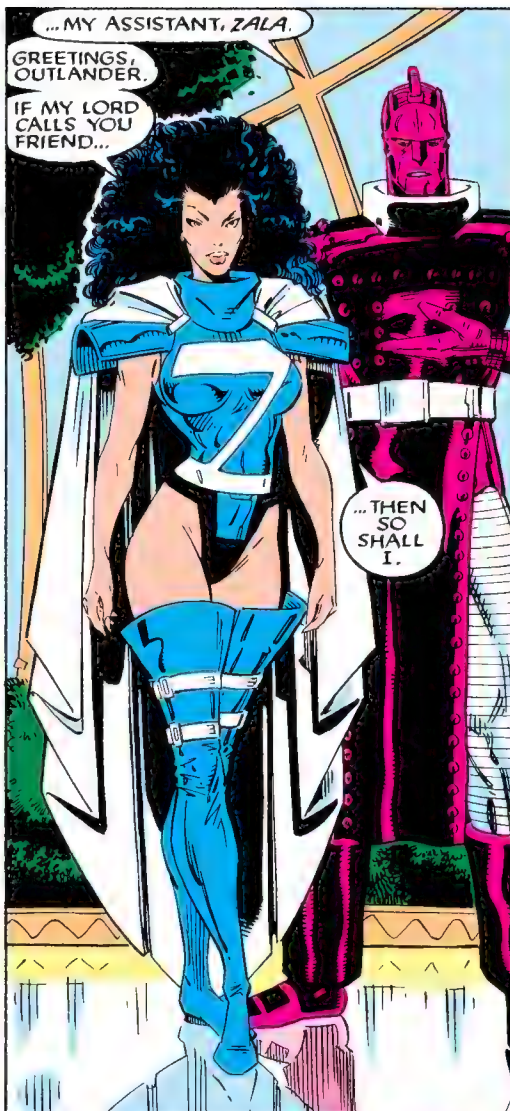
IMPOSSIBLE TO BELIEVE, THOUGH, WHEN YOU LOOK INTO THE EYES OF THOSE WHO SUFFER AS A RESULT.

BETTER TO THINK, INSTEAD, OF THOSE WHO WILL BENEFIT.

BUT NO SUCH CONFLICT EXISTS IN THIS CASE, SIR...

...DOES IT?

ALLOW ME TO PRESENT...

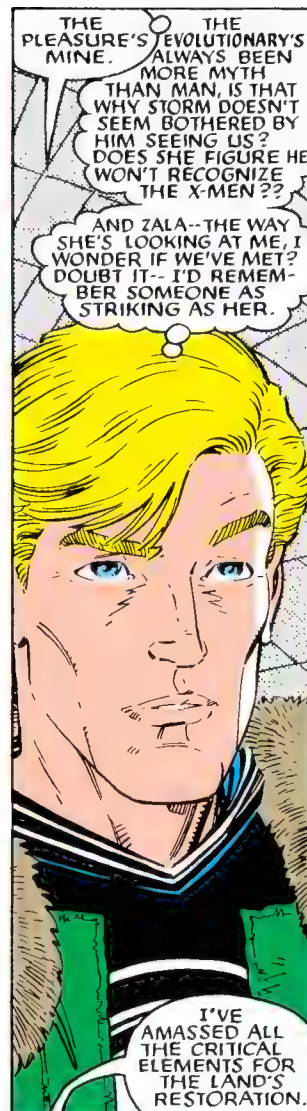


...MY ASSISTANT, ZALA.

GREETINGS, OUTLANDER.

IF MY LORD CALLS YOU FRIEND...

...THEN SO SHALL I.



THE PLEASURE'S MINE. THE EVOLUTIONARY'S ALWAYS BEEN MORE MYTH THAN MAN, IS THAT WHY STORM DOESN'T SEEM BOTHERED BY HIM SEEING US? DOES SHE FIGURE HE WON'T RECOGNIZE THE X-MEN??

AND ZALA--THE WAY SHE'S LOOKING AT ME, I WONDER IF WE'VE MET? DOUBT IT-- I'D REMEMBER SOMEONE AS STRIKING AS HER.

I'VE AMASSED ALL THE CRITICAL ELEMENTS FOR THE LAND'S RESTORATION.



ALL I LACK IS THE FOCUS-CATALYST NECESSARY TO TRIGGER THE PROCESS.

A LIVING BEING--PREFERABLY A MUTANT--WHOSE PRIMAL NATURE IS IN SYNC WITH THE LAND'S.

THE WAY YOU PHRASE IT, I CAN THINK OF ONE PERSON...

...WHO'D FIT THAT BILL PERFECTLY.



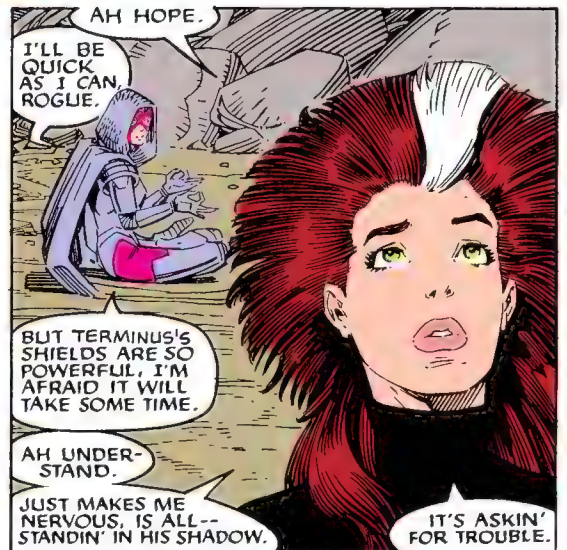
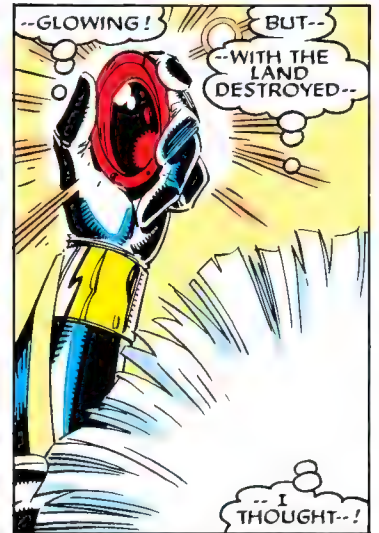
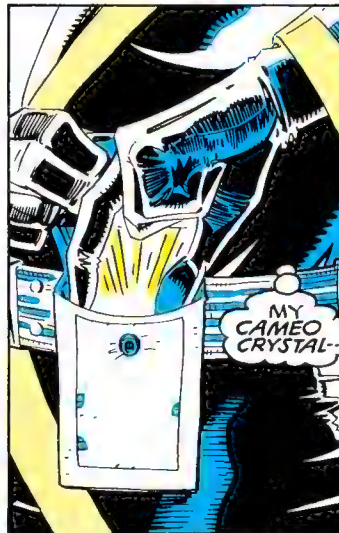
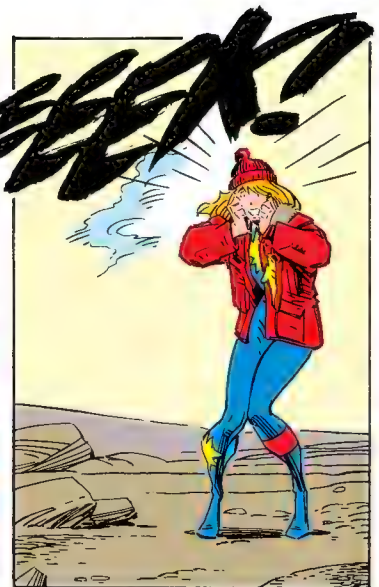
UNFORTUNATELY--SO FAR AS I KNOW-- HE'S DEAD.

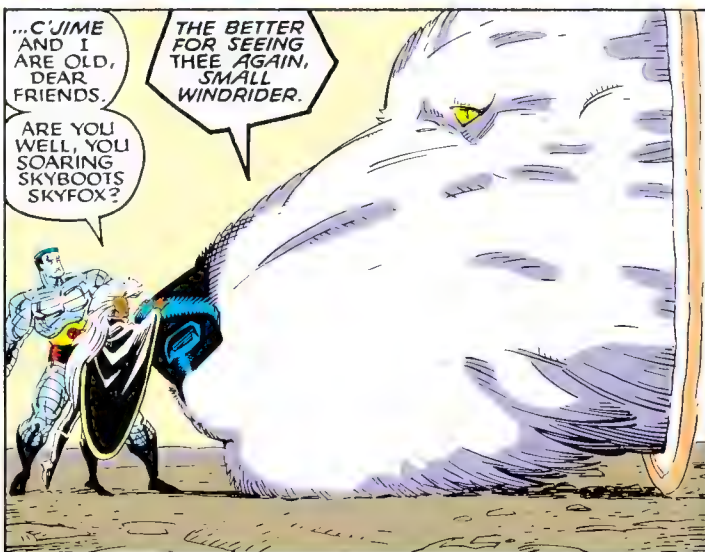
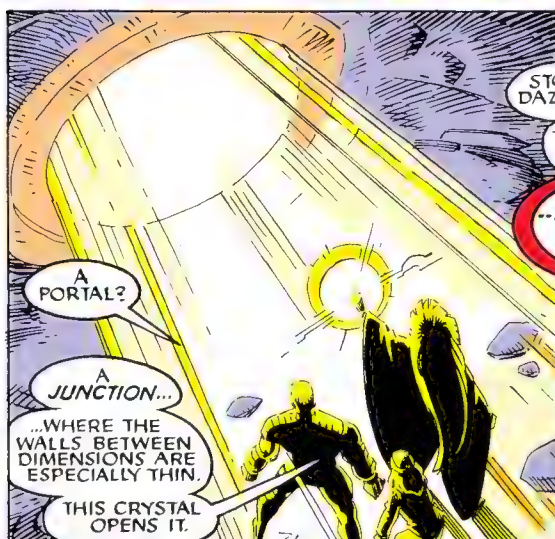
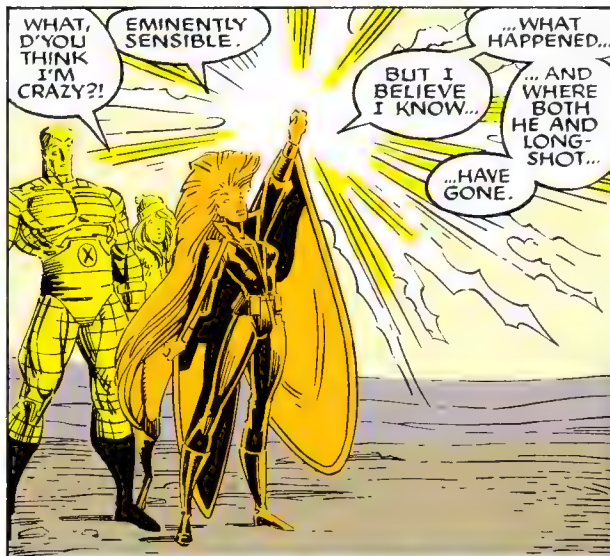
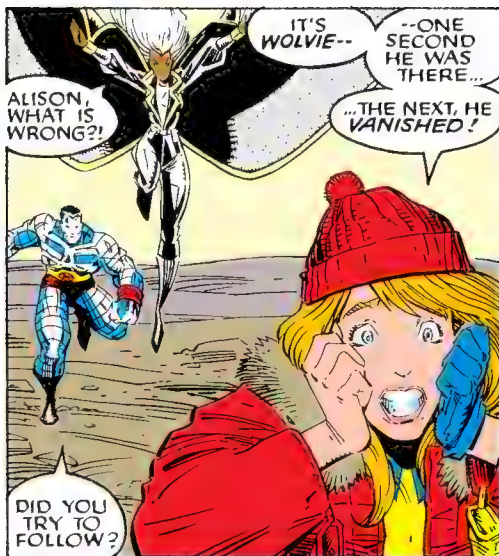
I SUSPECT THAT HAPPENS TO THE BEST OF US, LAD...

...MORE OFTEN THAN WE SUSPECT.

???

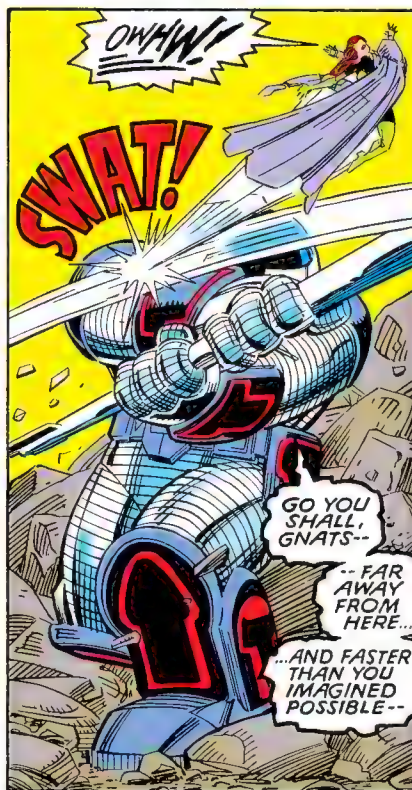
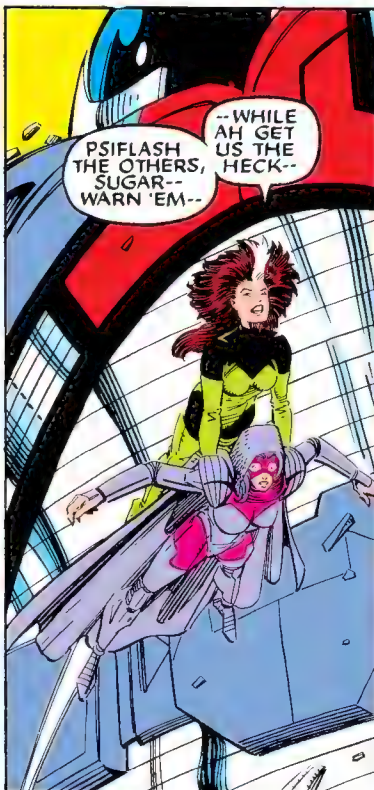
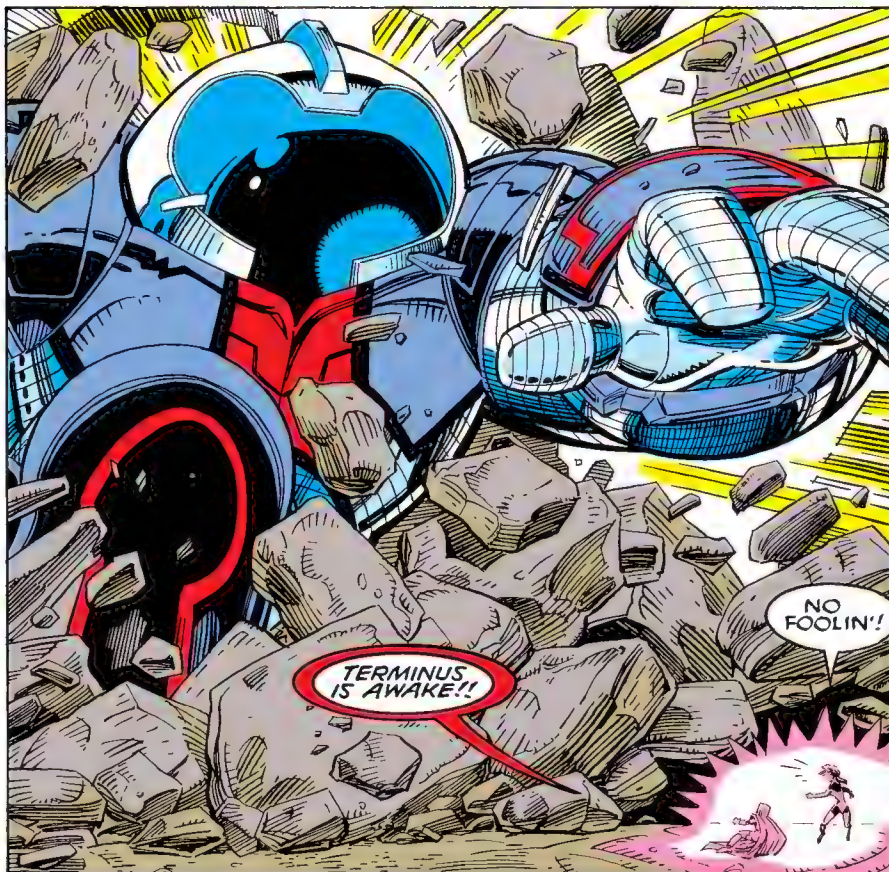
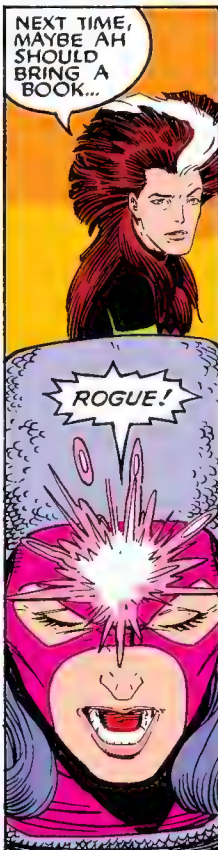


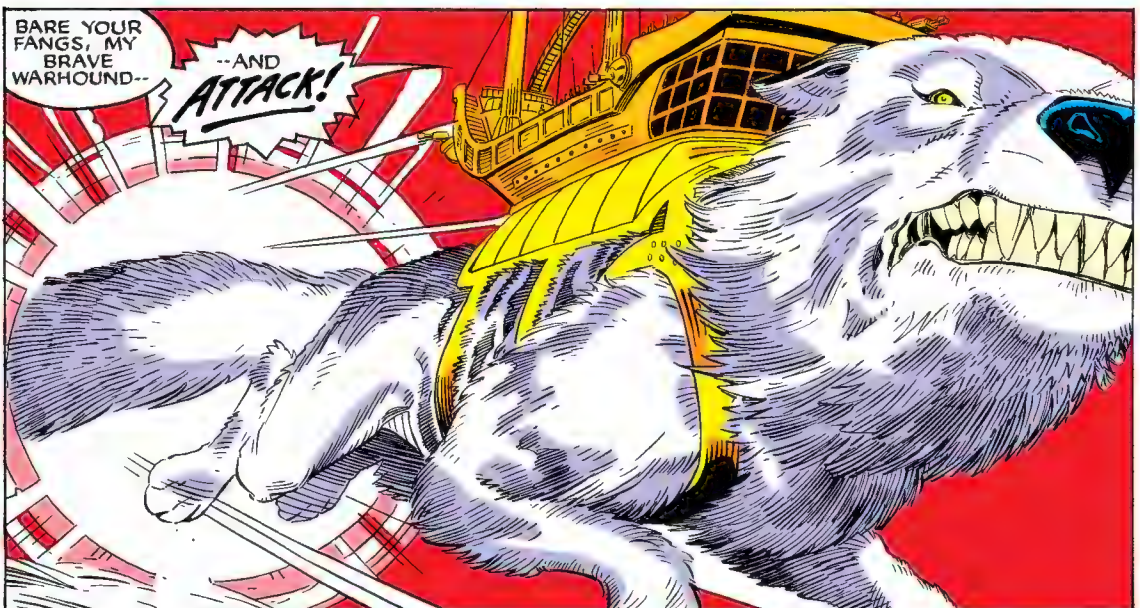
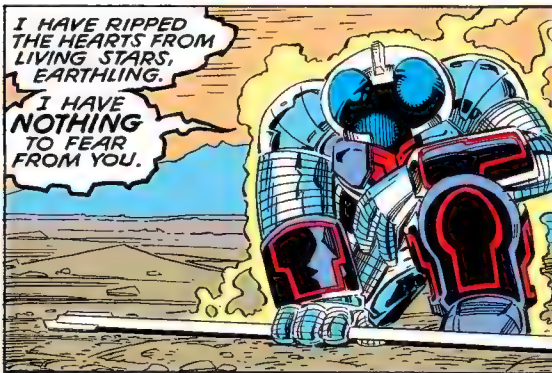
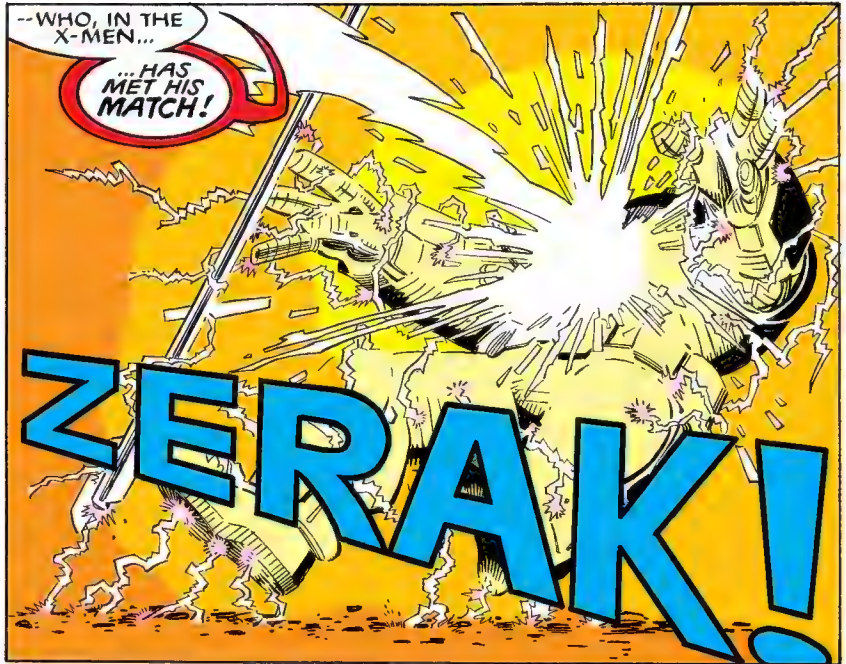


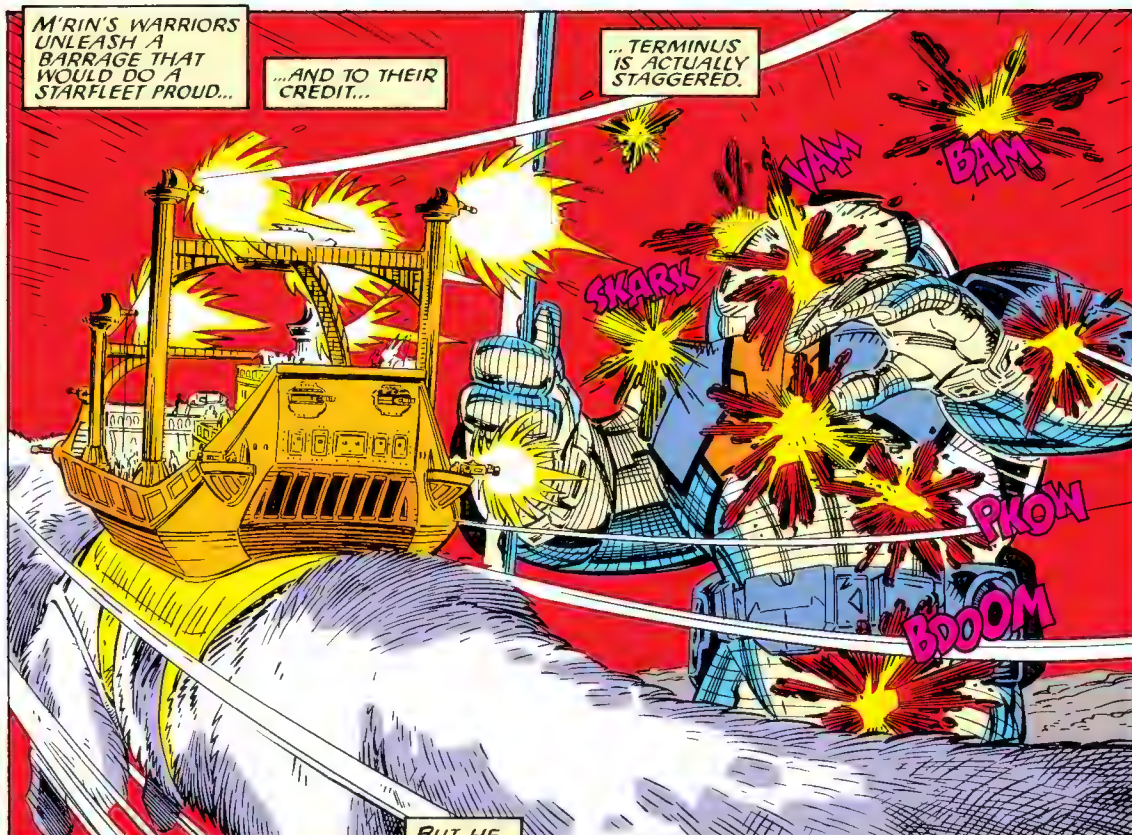




ELSEWHERE...





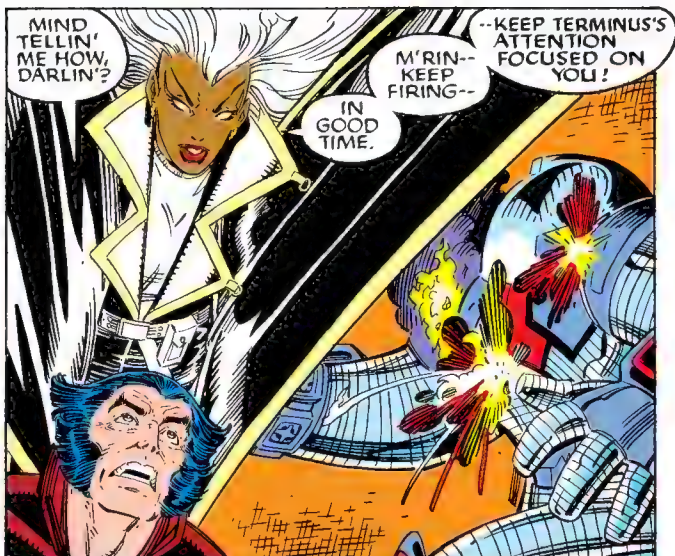




WAIT!

DAUGHTER
-- WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING?!

WINNING
THE
BATTLE--
-- I HOPE.



MIND
TELLIN'
ME HOW,
DARLIN'?

M'RIN--
KEEP
FIRING--
IN
GOOD
TIME.

--KEEP TERMINUS'S
ATTENTION
FOCUSED ON
YOU!



HAVOK--YOU HEARD
PSYLOCKE'S CALL--?!

BARELY--IT WAS
THE COMMOTION
CAUGHT OUR
ATTENTION.

WHAT
D'YOU
WANT US
TO DO?!

WAIT FOR
MY CUE.

SHE'S
GOT A
PLAN.

IT BETTER
BE GOOD.

I MEAN,
HOW MUCH
HARDER
CAN WE
HIT THIS
CREEP?

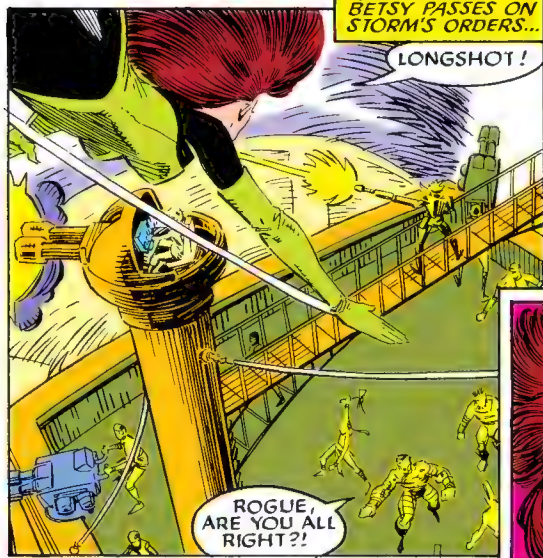
PSYLOCKE--

I HEAR
YOU, STORM.

--BRING
ROGUE INTO
PLAY.

AND, AFTER
BETSY PASSES ON
STORM'S ORDERS...

LONGSHOT!



ROGUE,
ARE YOU ALL
RIGHT?!



HANGIN' IN THERE,
BIG GUY.

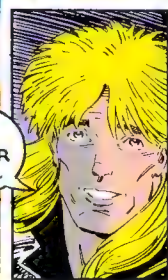
BUT ONLY
JUST-- THAT
WAS SOME
HIT!

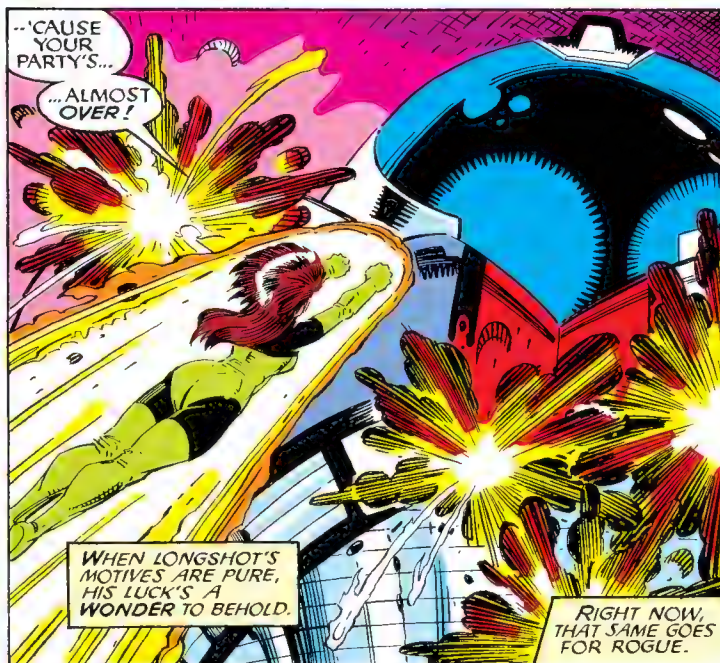
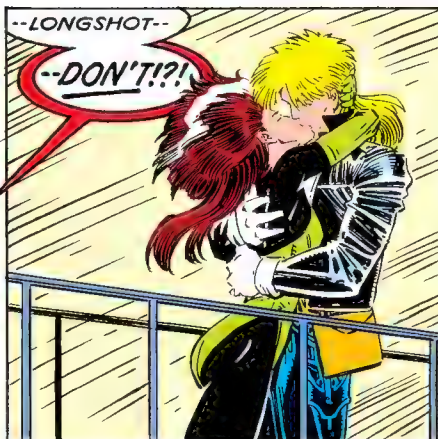
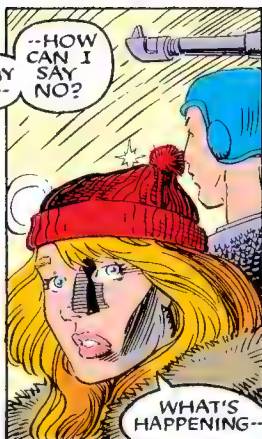
AH NEED
A FAVOR,
KIDDO--

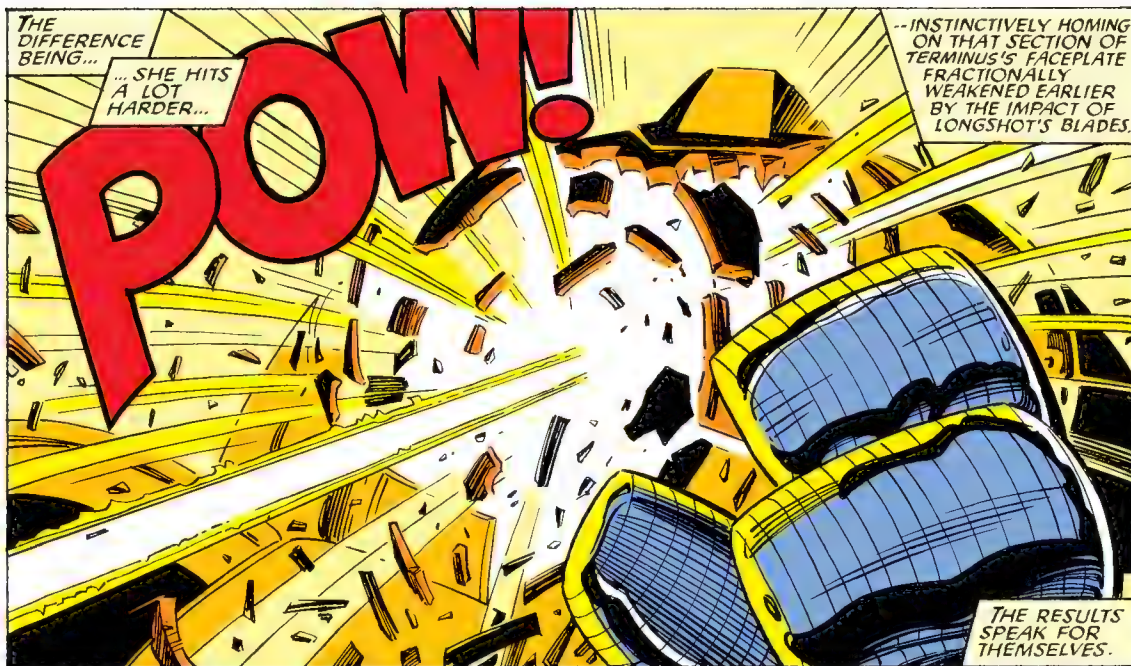
--MAY AH
PLEASE BORROW
YOUR LUCK?

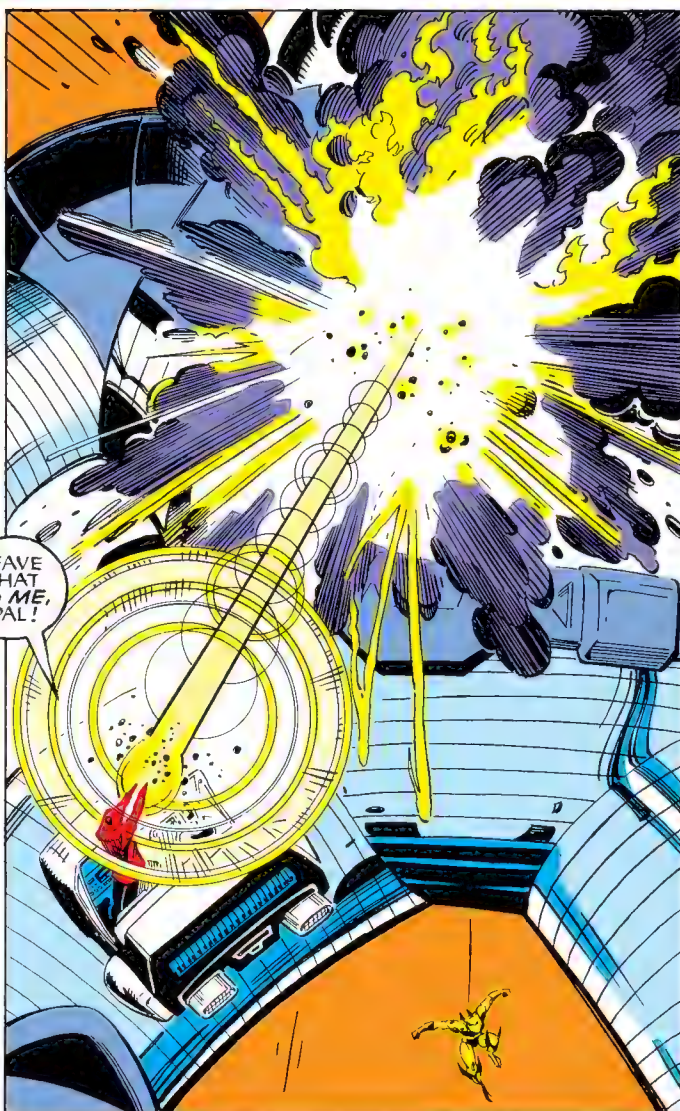
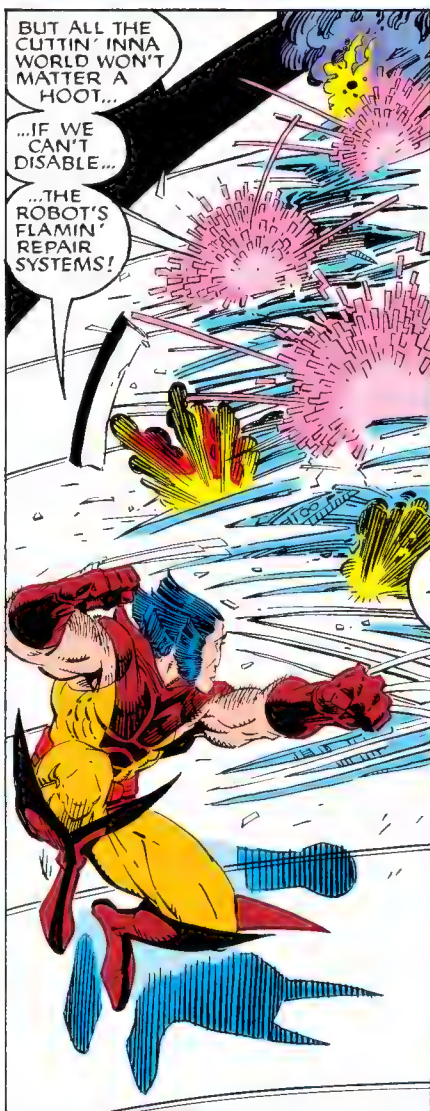
YOU MEAN--
USE YOUR
POWER...

...TO
TAKE
AWAY
MINE?











YOUR TURN, ALISON--

--A PHOTON BLAST--

--AT FULL STRENGTH!

PSYLOCKE--
PASS THE WORD
TO STORM--

--I'M GIVING IT
MY BEST SHOT!



NOT TOO
SHABBY, IF I
DO SAY SO
MYSELF--

--HEY, I
POPPED
THAT
GAROKK
FELLA...

...RIGHT
OUT
OF HIS
SEAT!



ONCE, O MAN,
I FAILED TO
SAVE YOU. *

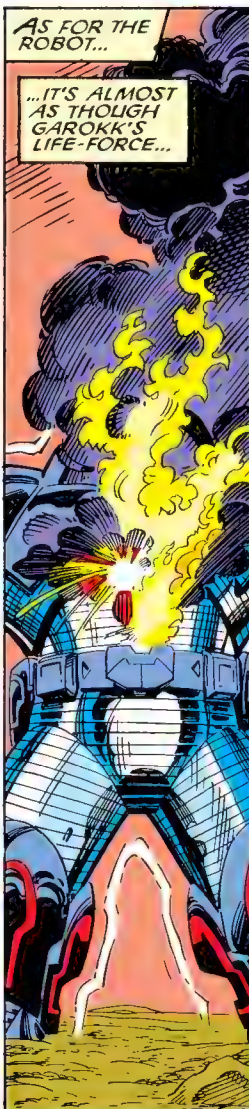
I THANK
THE FATES
I HAVE BEEN
GIVEN ANOTHER
CHANCE...

...AND NOT
BEEN FOUND
WANTING.

I
PRAY
YOU DO
THE SAME.

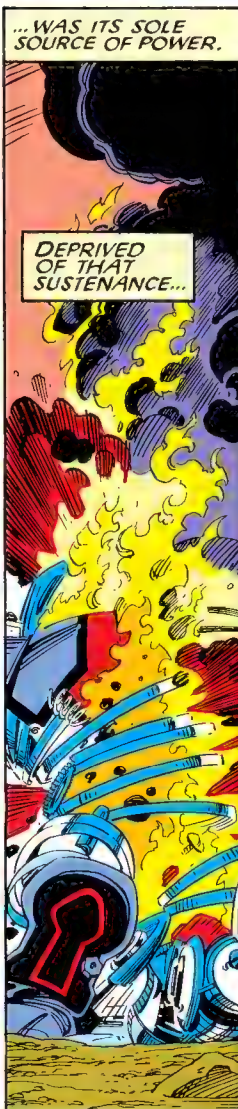
*WAAAY BACK
IN X-MEN #116
(OR CLASSIC
X-MEN #22)--Bob.

I HAVE
YOU,
ROGUE.



AS FOR THE
ROBOT...

...IT'S ALMOST
AS THOUGH
GAROKK'S
LIFE-FORCE...



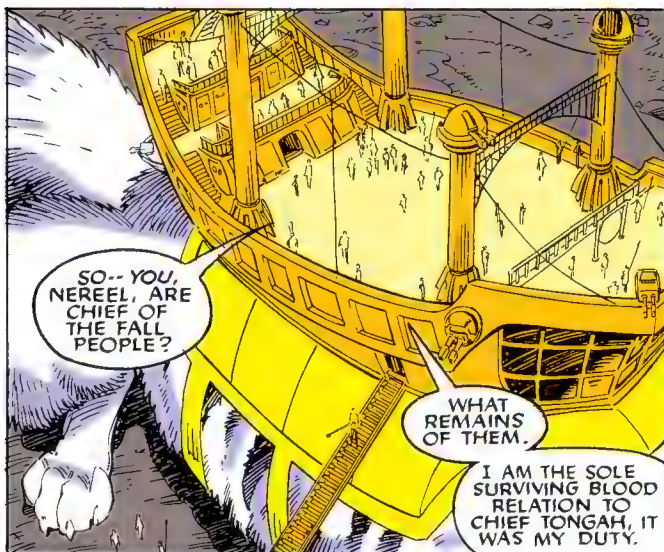
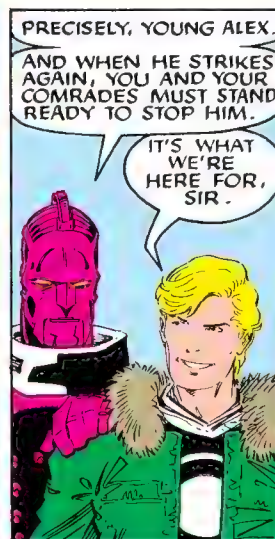
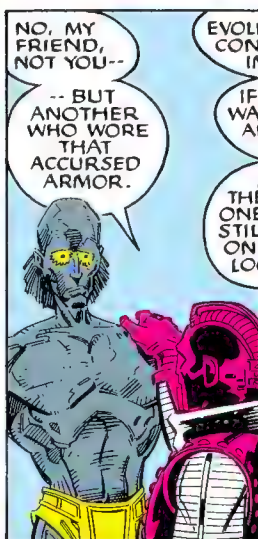
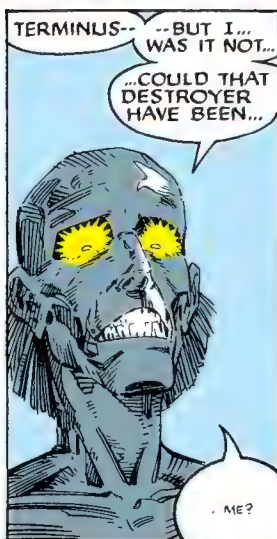
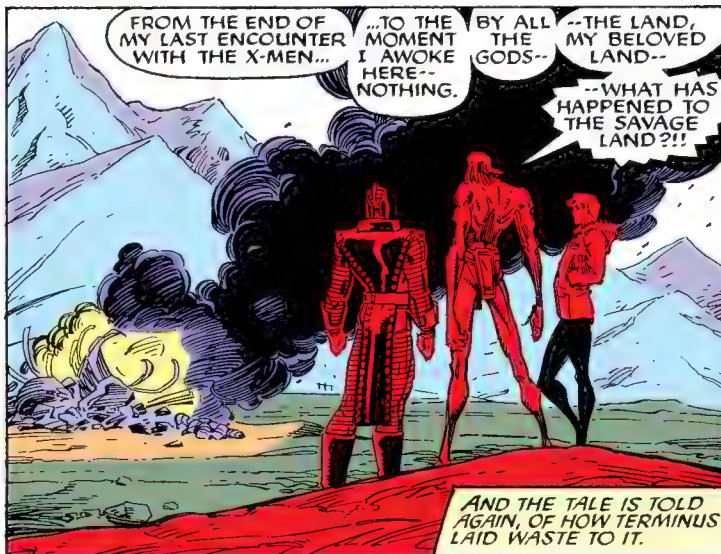
...WAS ITS SOLE
SOURCE OF POWER.

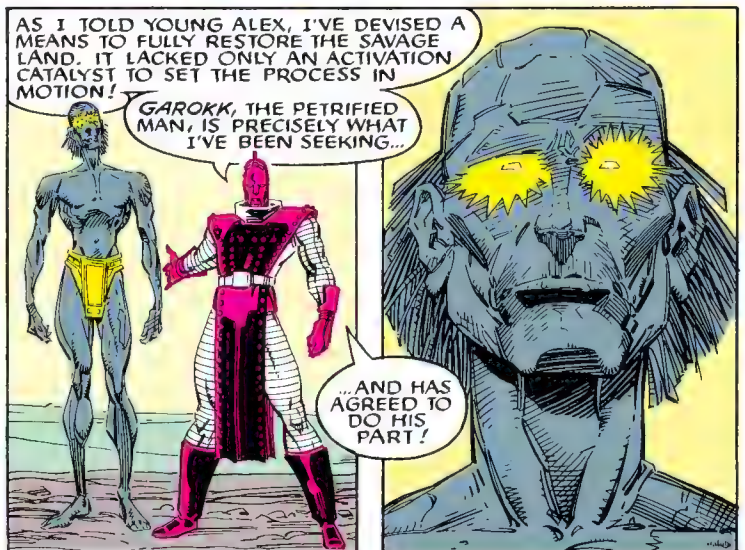
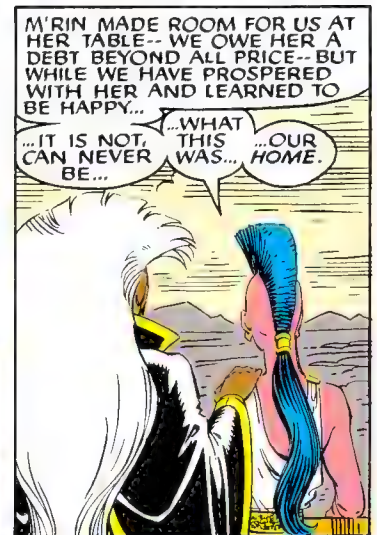
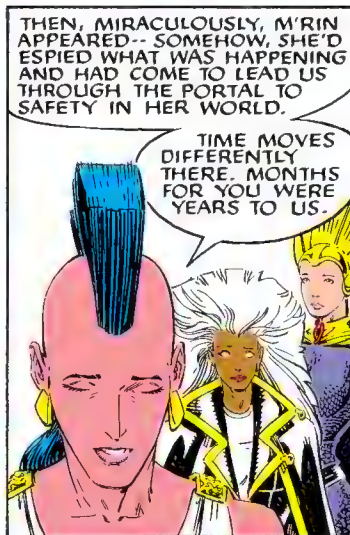
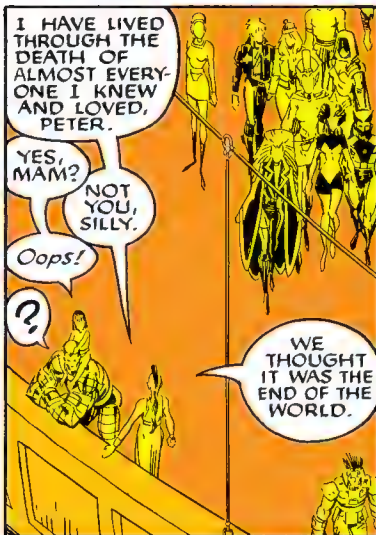
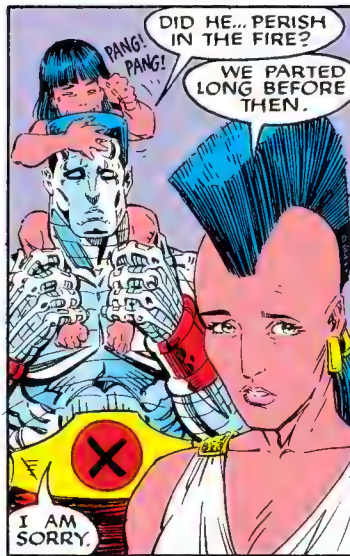
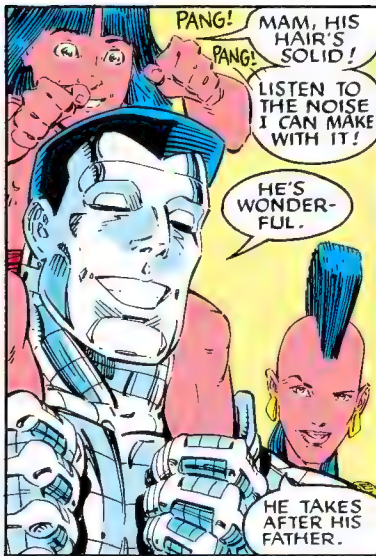
DEPRIVED
OF THAT
SUSTENANCE...

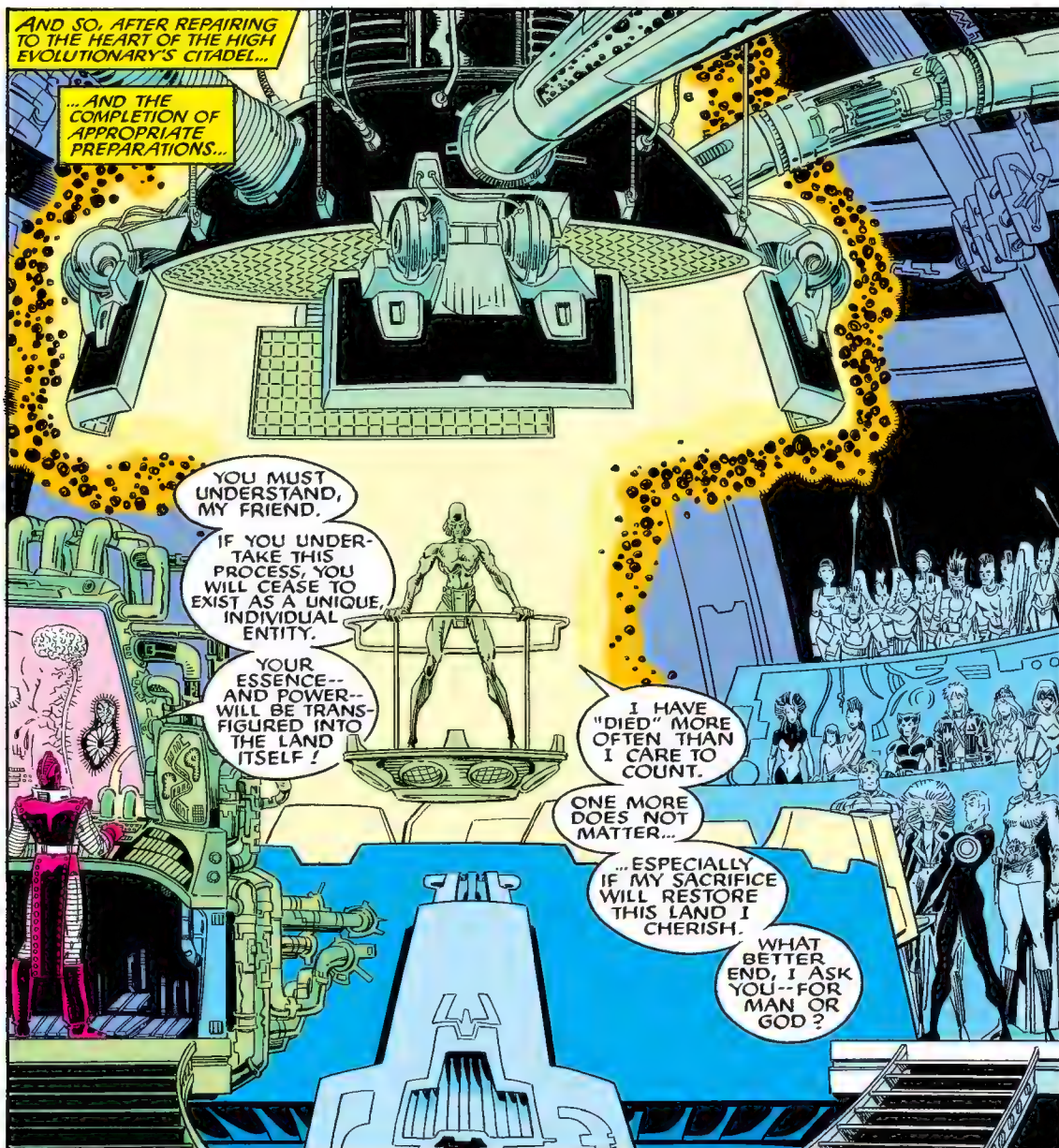


...THE MONSTROUS
JUGGERNAUT SIMPLY,
SPEEDILY...

...CEASES
TO EXIST.





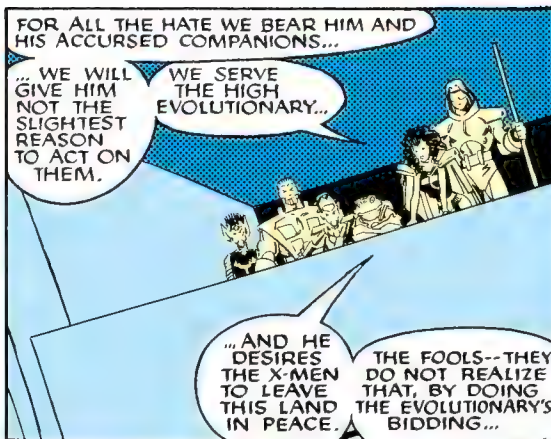




ZALADANE--

...THE SMALL ONE, THE BERSERKER, WOLVERINE, HE SUSPECTS!

LET HIM.



FOR ALL THE HATE WE BEAR HIM AND HIS ACCURSED COMPANIONS...

...WE WILL GIVE HIM NOT THE SLIGHTEST REASON TO ACT ON THEM.

WE SERVE THE HIGH EVOLUTIONARY...

...AND HE DESIRES THE X-MEN TO LEAVE THIS LAND IN PEACE.

THE FOOLS--THEY DO NOT REALIZE THAT, BY DOING THE EVOLUTIONARY'S BIDDING...



...THEY HELP SEAL THE DOOM OF THIS WORLD THEY ARE SWORN TO PROTECT.

A NEW ORDER WILL RISE FROM THE ASHES OF OUR EVOLUTIONARY WAR...

...AND WE MUTATES SHALL STAND AMONG THOSE CHOSEN TO RULE.

THAT DAY CANNOT COME TOO SOON.

I LOOK FORWARD TO IT ALMOST AS MUCH AS I DO THE SIGHT...



...OF STORM'S HEAD...

...ADORNING A PIKE BESIDE MY THRONE!



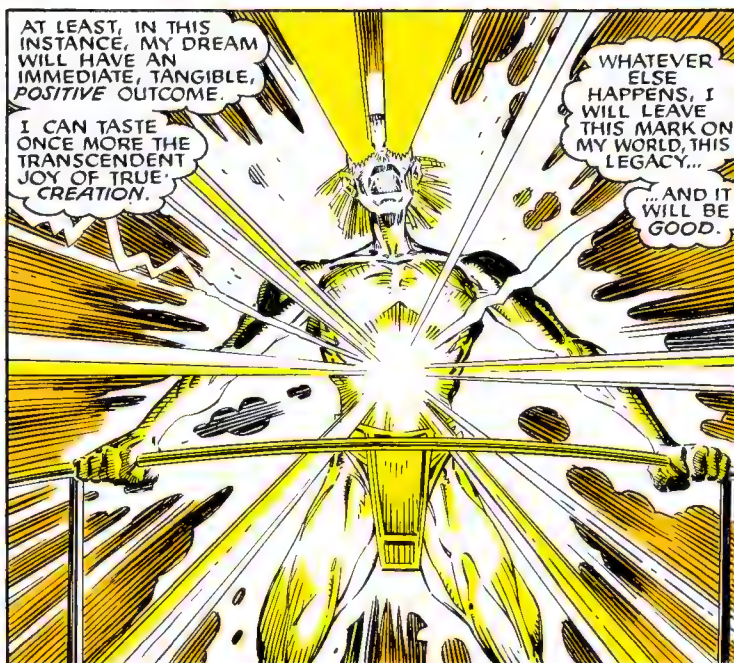
DREAM ON, ZALADANE, IN BLISSFUL IGNORANCE OF THE FACT...

...THAT YOUR DREAMS, LIKE YOUR FATE, ARE NOT MINE.

I'VE LITTLE LIKING FOR MANY OF THE TOOLS I AM FORCED TO USE...

...BUT A MAN MUST MAKE DO WITH WHAT HE HAS.

TEK

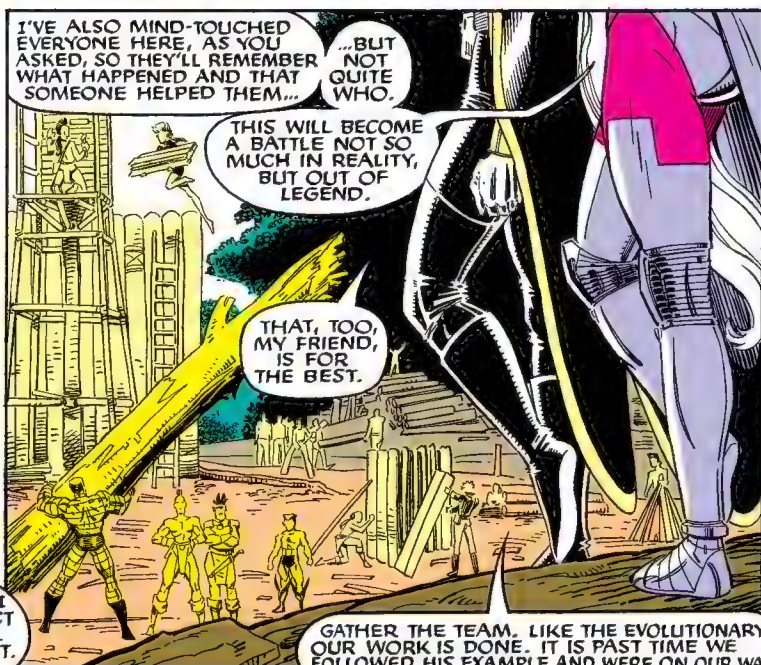
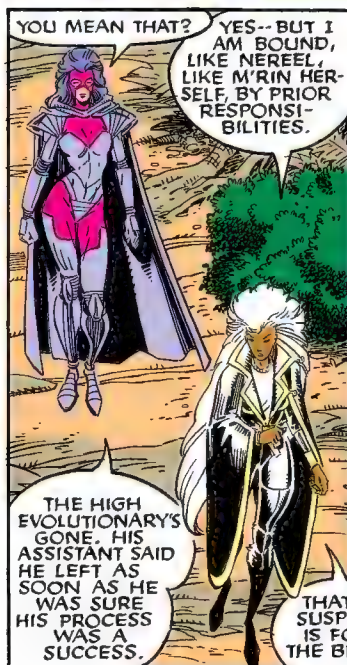
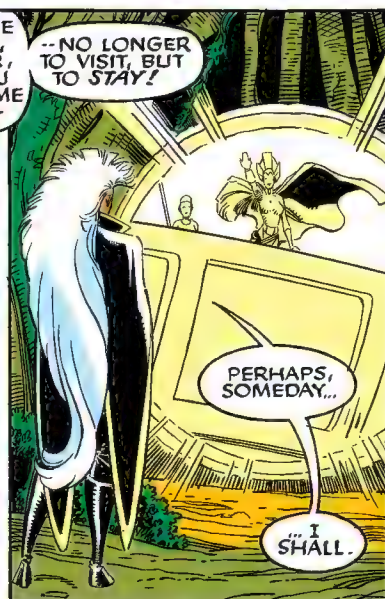
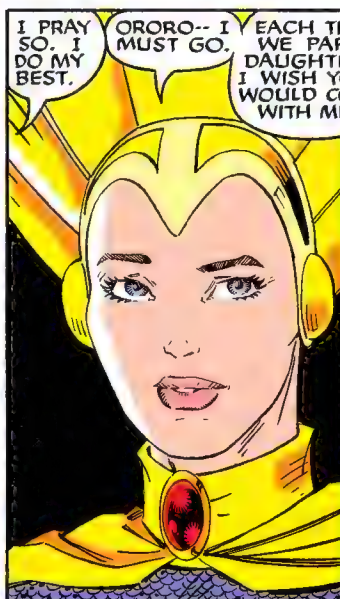
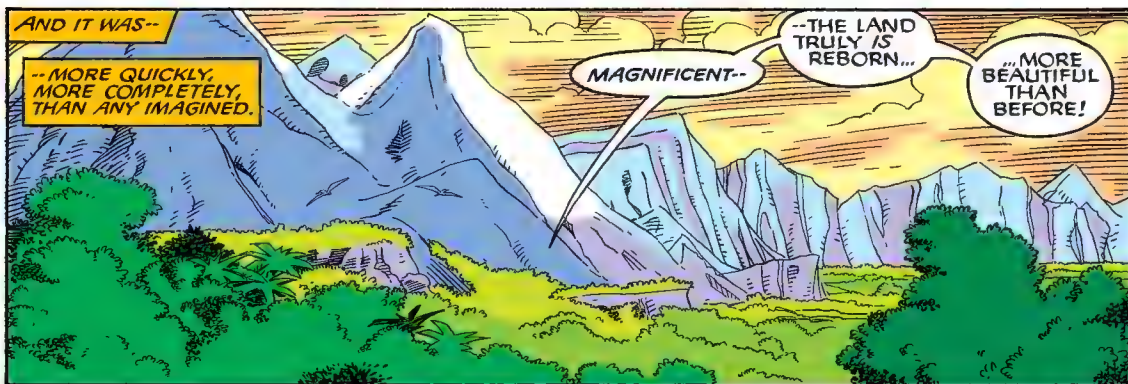


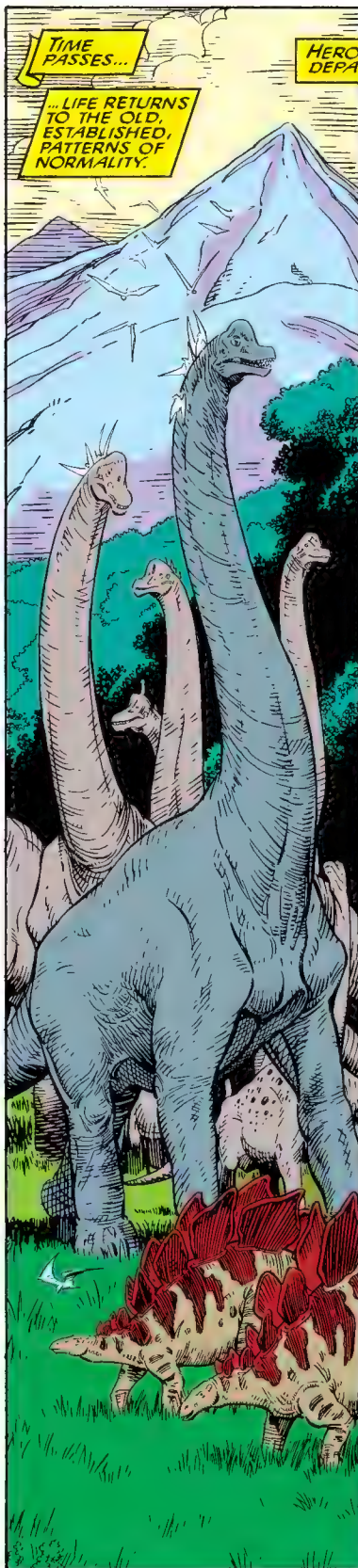
AT LEAST, IN THIS INSTANCE, MY DREAM WILL HAVE AN IMMEDIATE, TANGIBLE, POSITIVE OUTCOME.

I CAN TASTE ONCE MORE THE TRANSCENDENT JOY OF TRUE CREATION.

WHATEVER ELSE HAPPENS, I WILL LEAVE THIS MARK ON MY WORLD, THIS LEGACY...

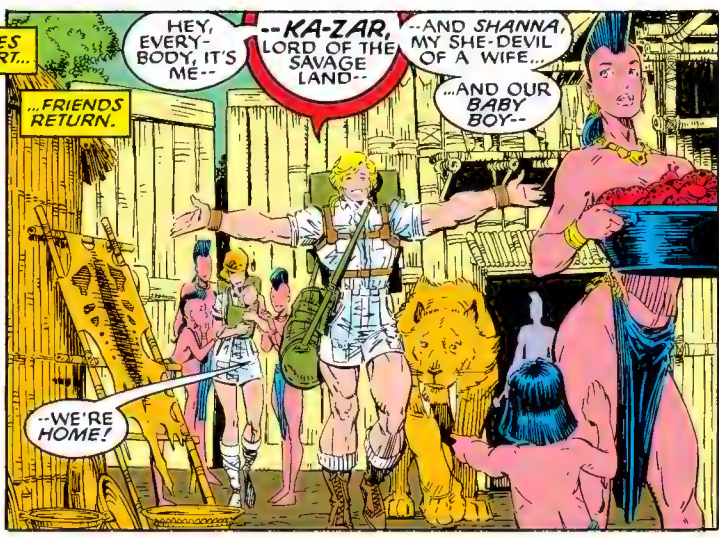
...AND IT WILL BE GOOD.





TIME PASSES...
...LIFE RETURNS TO THE OLD, ESTABLISHED, PATTERNS OF NORMALITY.

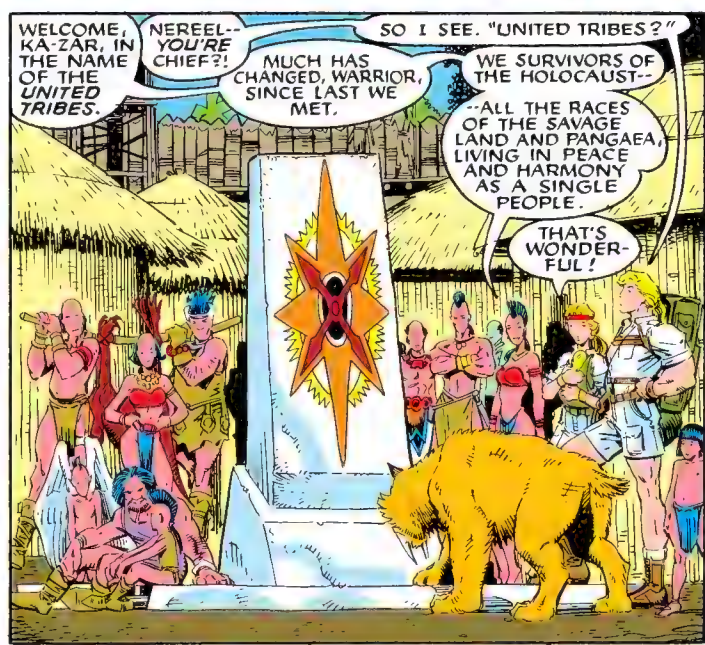
HEROES DEPART...



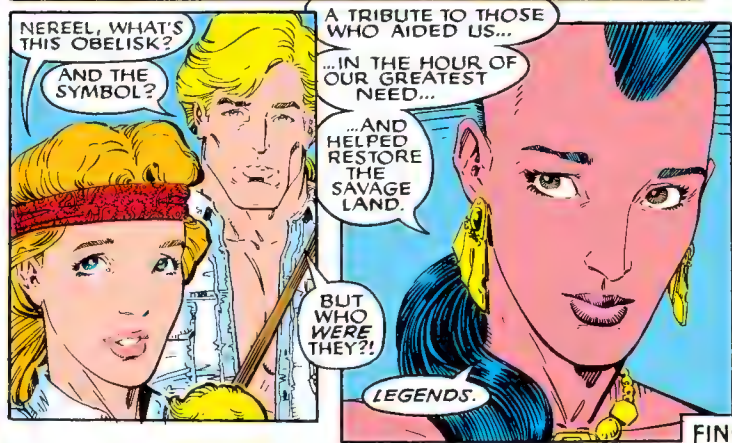
HEY, EVERYBODY, IT'S ME--
--KA-ZAR, LORD OF THE SAVAGE LAND--
--AND SHANNA, MY SHE-DEVIL OF A WIFE...
...AND OUR BABY BOY--

...FRIENDS RETURN.

--WE'RE HOME!



WELCOME, KA-ZAR, IN THE NAME OF THE UNITED TRIBES.
NEREEL-- YOU'RE CHIEF?!
MUCH HAS CHANGED, WARRIOR, SINCE LAST WE MET.
SO I SEE. "UNITED TRIBES?"
WE SURVIVORS OF THE HOLOCAUST--
--ALL THE RACES OF THE SAVAGE LAND AND PANGAEA, LIVING IN PEACE AND HARMONY AS A SINGLE PEOPLE.
THAT'S WONDERFUL!



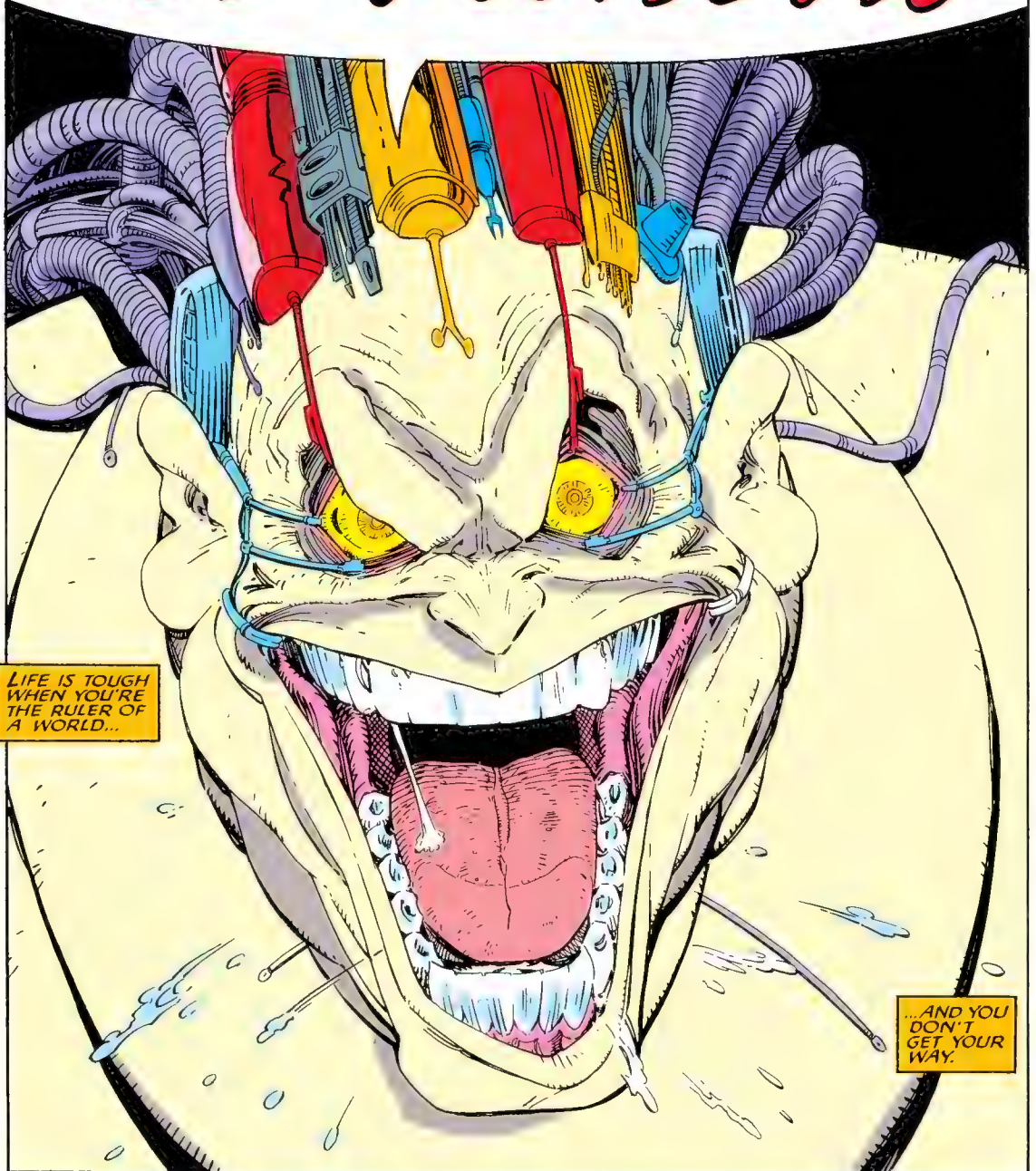
NEREEL, WHAT'S THIS OBELISK?
AND THE SYMBOL?
A TRIBUTE TO THOSE WHO AIDED US...
...IN THE HOUR OF OUR GREATEST NEED...
...AND HELPED RESTORE THE SAVAGE LAND.
BUT WHO WERE THEY?!

LEGENDS.

FIN.

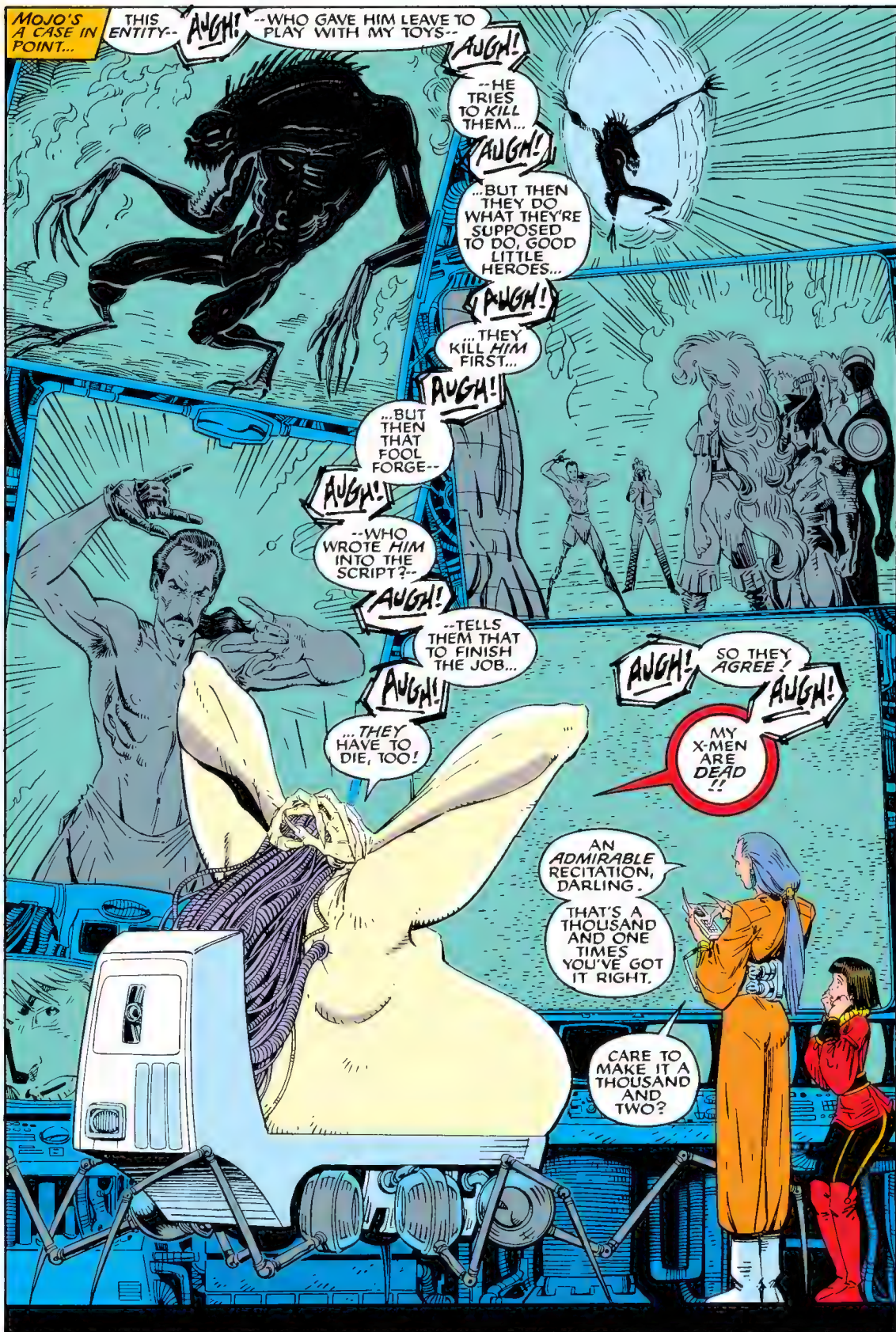
AND NOW--
SOMETHING
COMPLETELY
DIFFERENT...

I WANT MY X-MEN!



LIFE IS TOUGH
WHEN YOU'RE
THE RULER OF
A WORLD...

...AND YOU
DON'T
GET YOUR
WAY.



MOJO'S
A CASE IN
POINT...

THIS
ENTITY--

AUGH!

--WHO GAVE HIM LEAVE TO
PLAY WITH MY TOYS--

AUGH!

--HE
TRIES
TO KILL
THEM...

AUGH!

...BUT THEN
THEY DO
WHAT THEY'RE
SUPPOSED
TO DO, GOOD
LITTLE
HEROES...

AUGH!

...THEY
KILL HIM
FIRST...

AUGH!

...BUT
THEN
THAT
FOOL
FORGE--

AUGH!

--WHO
WROTE HIM
INTO THE
SCRIPT?--

AUGH!

--TELLS
THEM THAT
TO FINISH
THE JOB...

AUGH!

...THEY
HAVE TO
DIE, TOO!

AUGH!

SO THEY
AGREE!

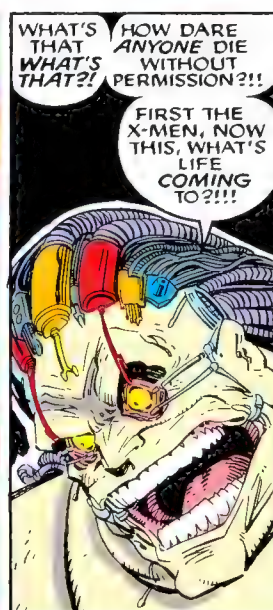
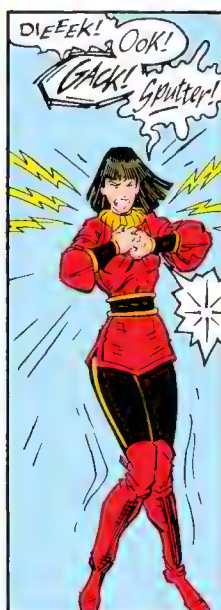
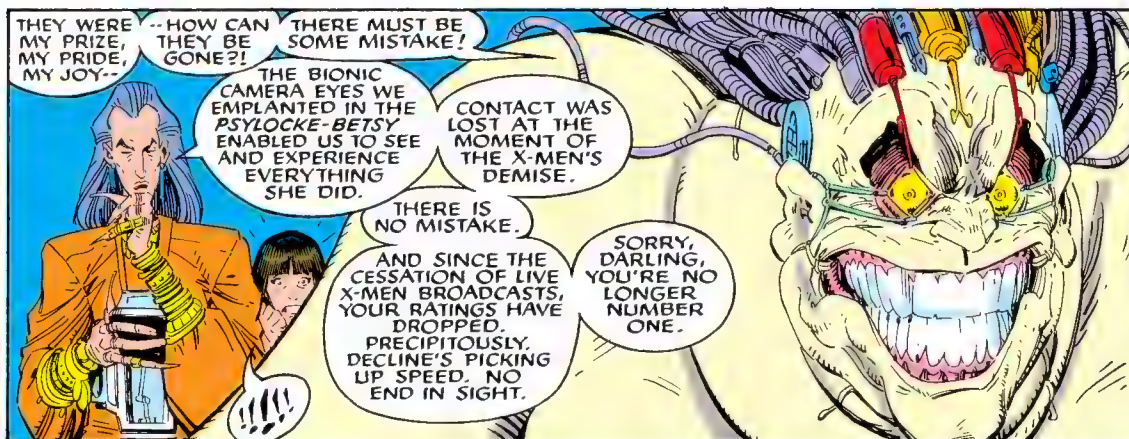
AUGH!

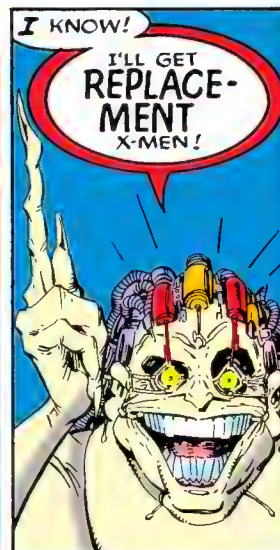
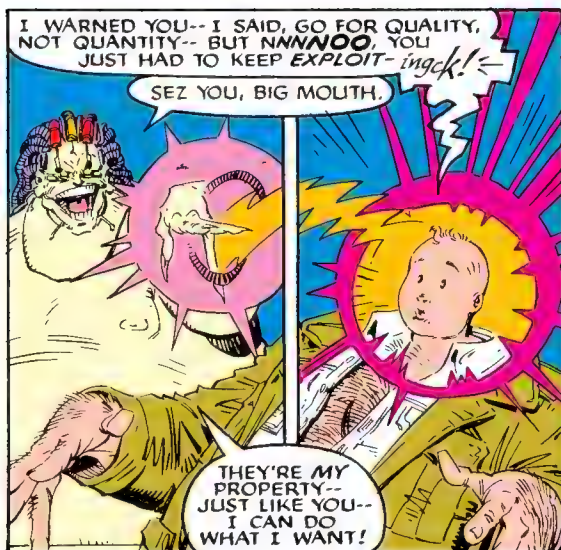
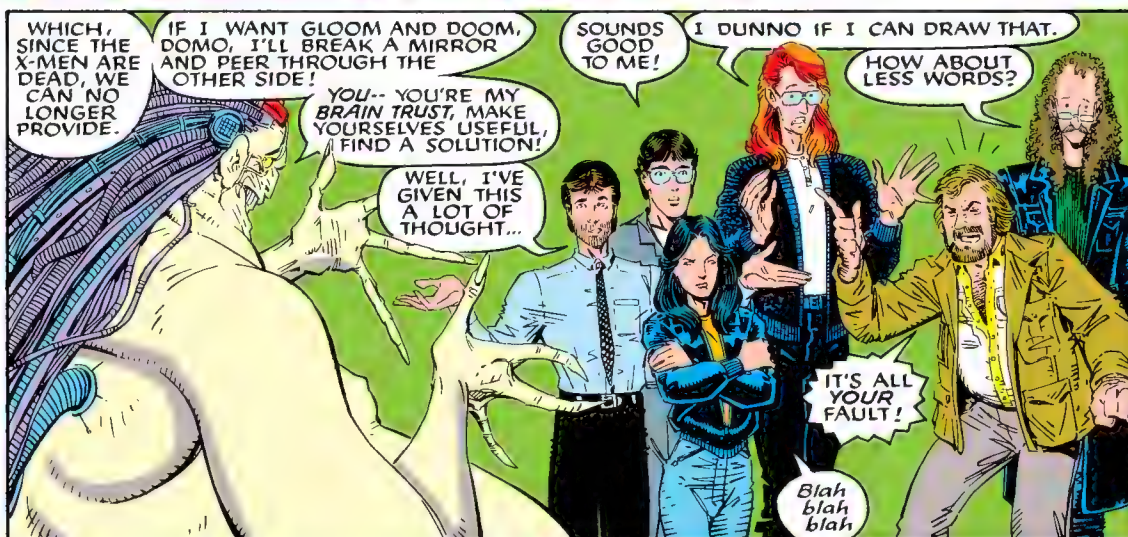
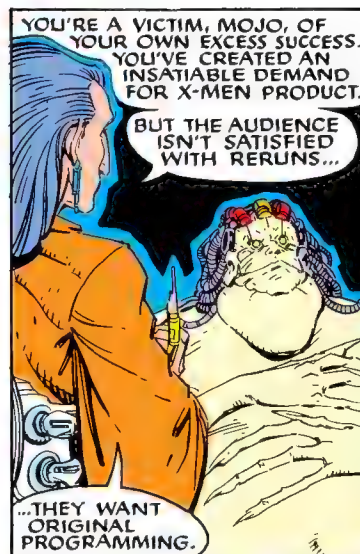
MY
X-MEN
ARE
DEAD
!!

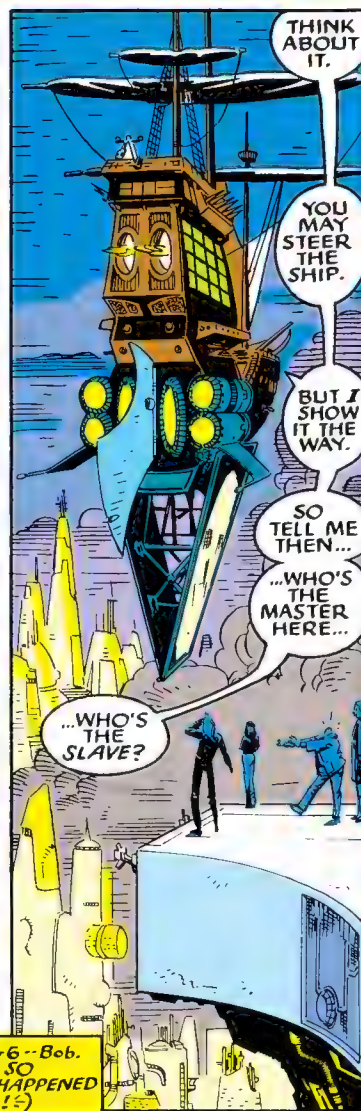
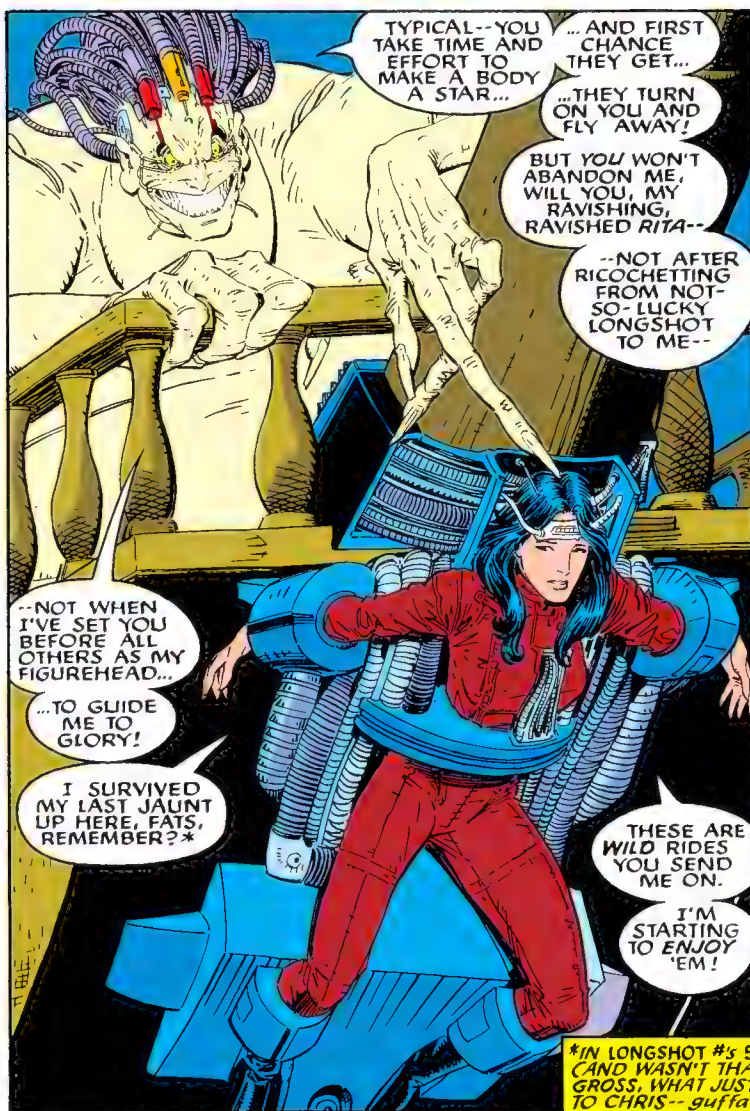
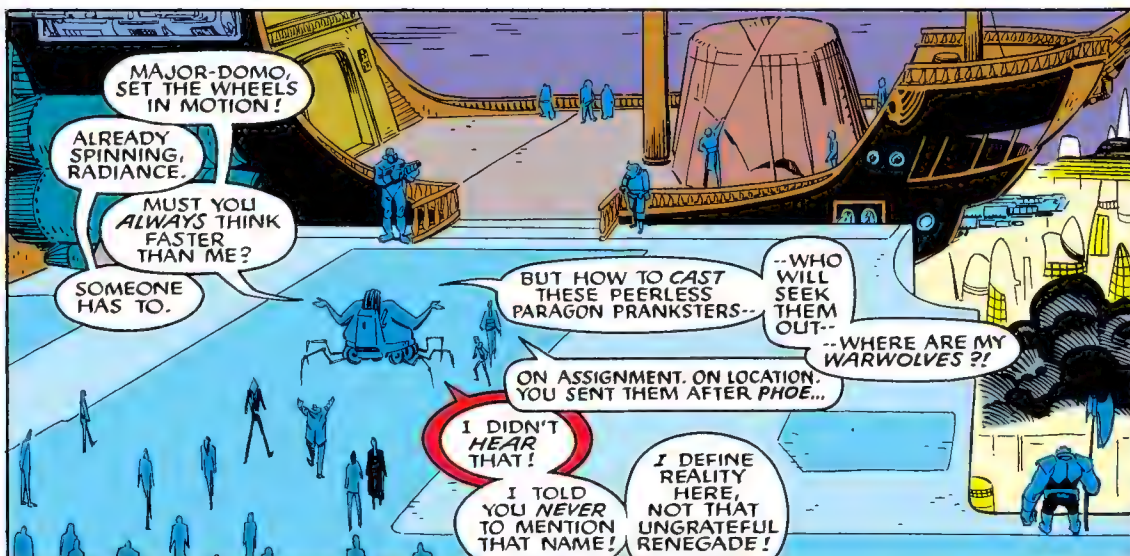
AN
ADMIRABLE
RECITATION,
DARLING.

THAT'S A
THOUSAND
AND ONE
TIMES
YOU'VE GOT
IT RIGHT.

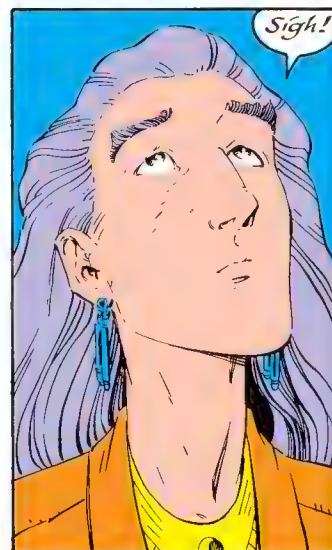
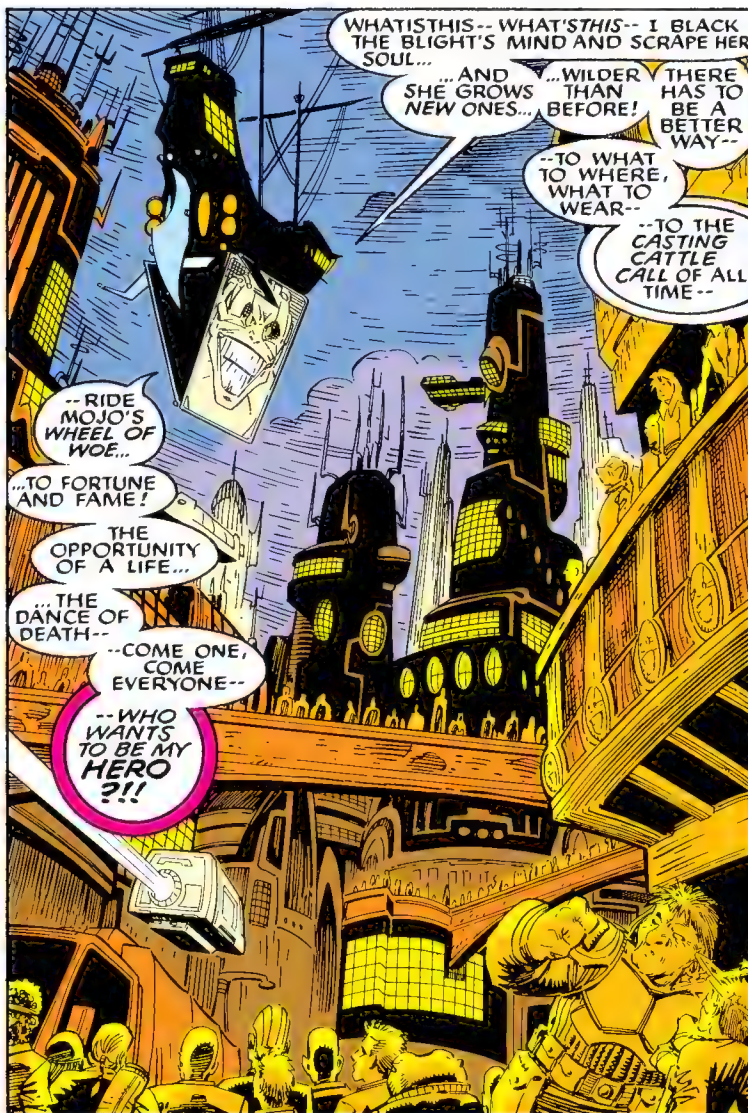
CARE TO
MAKE IT A
THOUSAND
AND TWO?

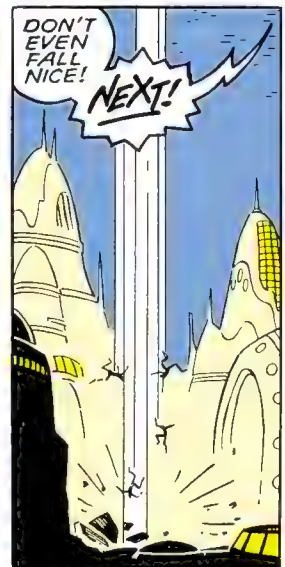
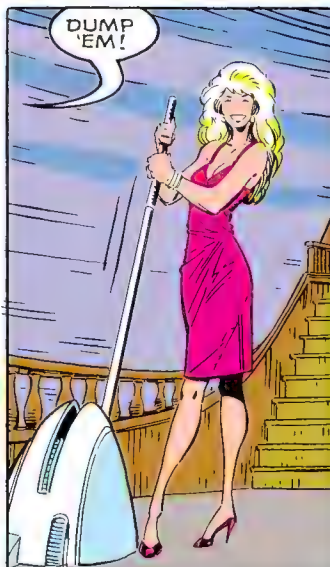
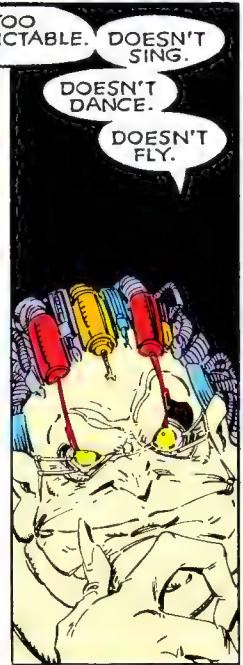
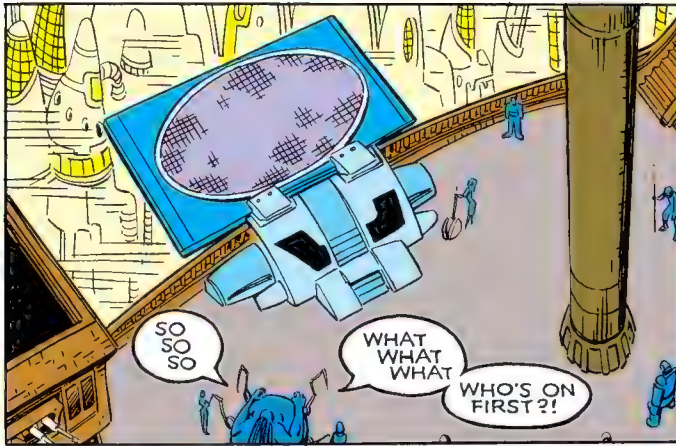


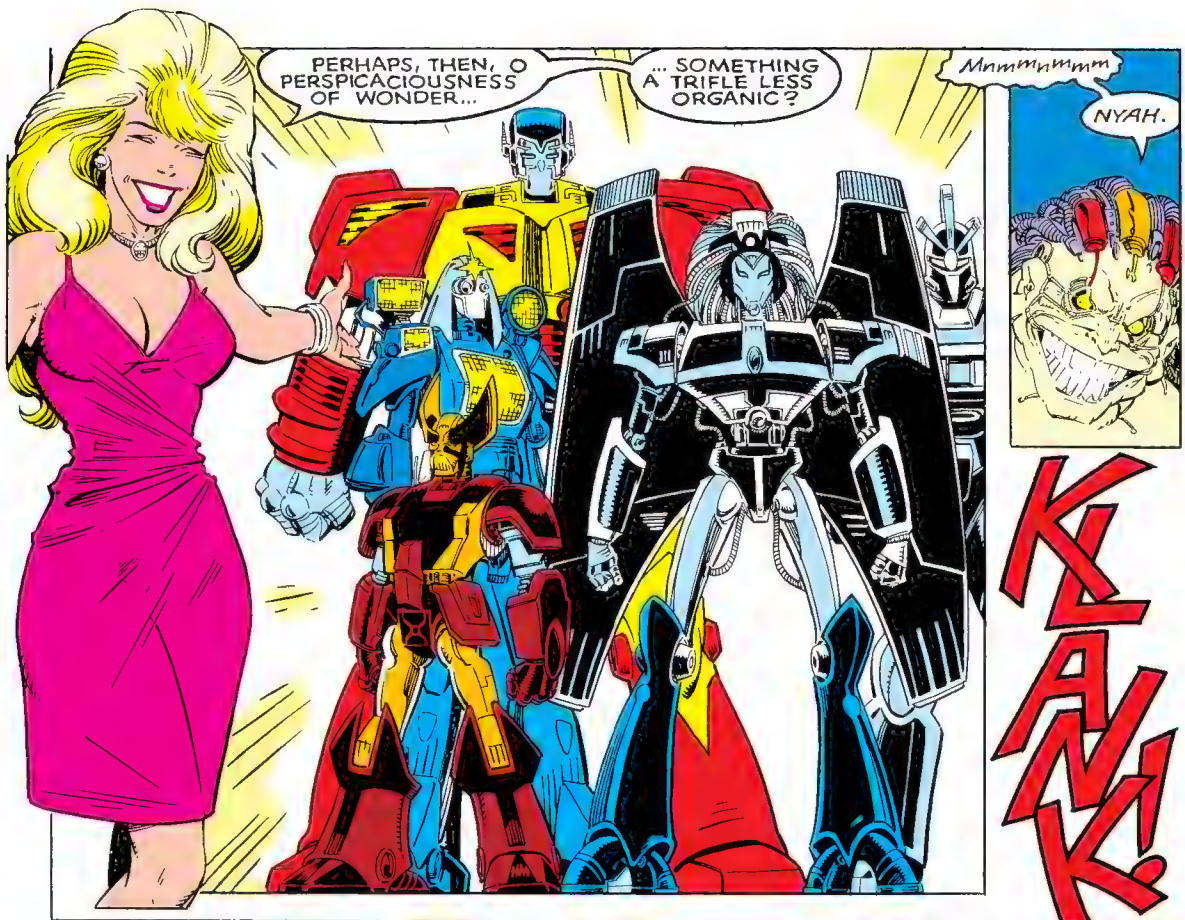




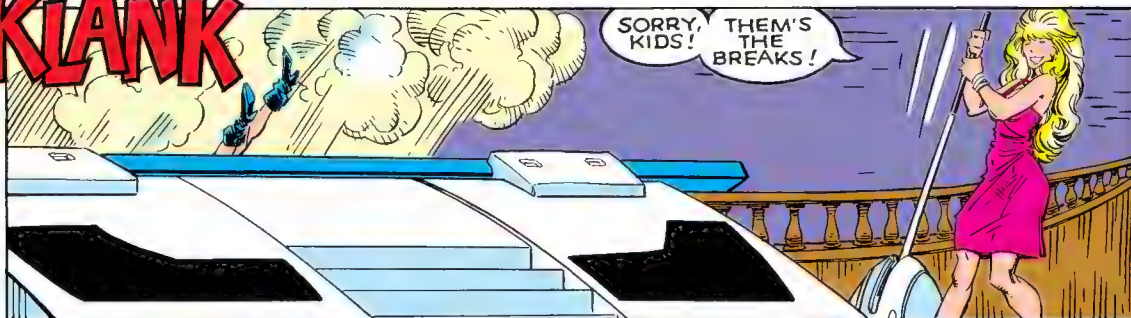
*IN LONGSHOT #s 5 & 6--Bob. (AND WASN'T THAT SO GROSS, WHAT JUST HAPPENED TO CHRIS-- guffaw! :-)



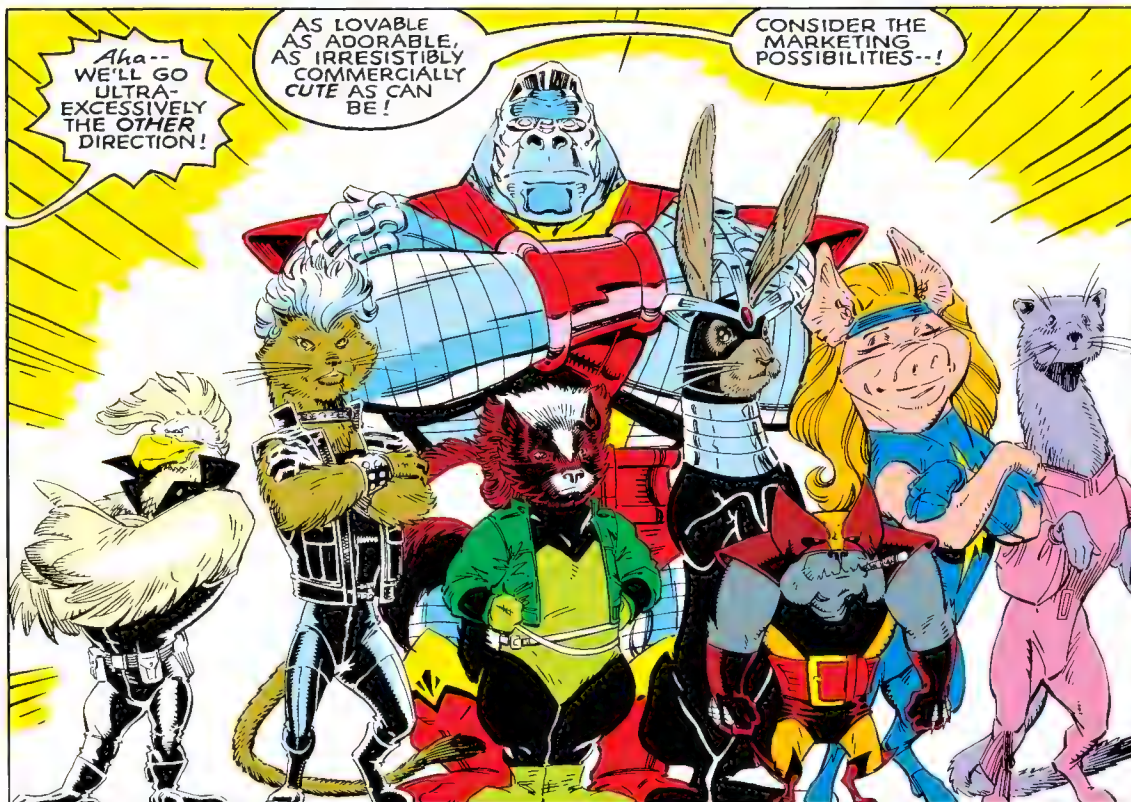




KLANK



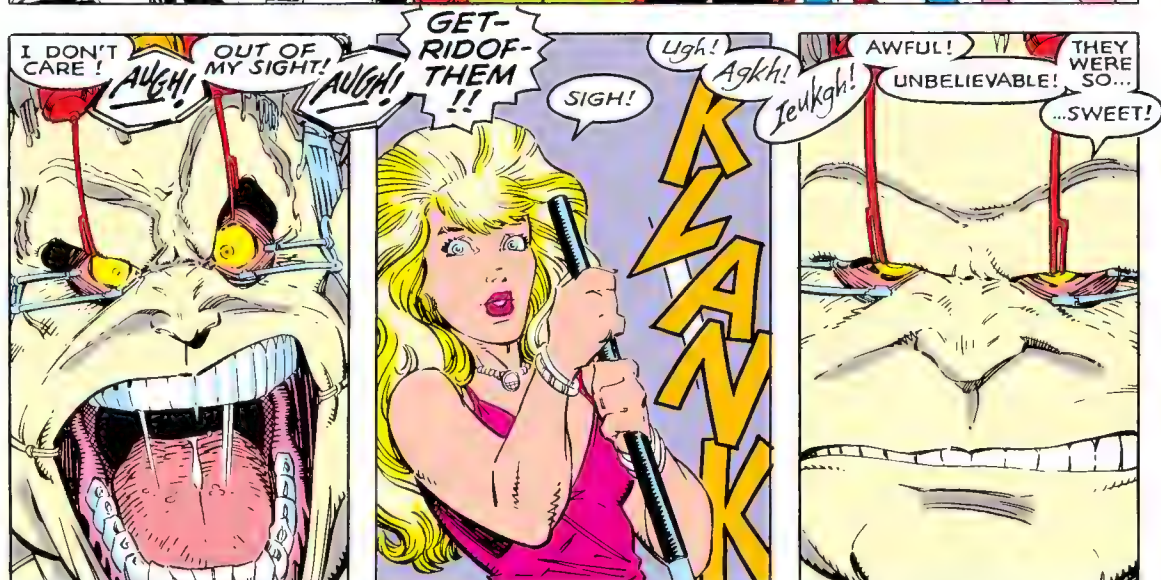
SORRY, KIDS! THEM'S THE BREAKS!



Aha-- WE'LL GO ULTRA-EXCESSIVELY THE OTHER DIRECTION!

AS LOVABLE AS ADORABLE, AS IRRESISTIBLY COMMERCIAL CUTE AS CAN BE!

CONSIDER THE MARKETING POSSIBILITIES--!



I DON'T CARE!

OUT OF MY SIGHT!

GET-RID-OF-THEM !!

SIGH!

Ugh!

Agkgh!

Ieukgh!

AWFUL!

UNBELIEVABLE!

THEY WERE SO...

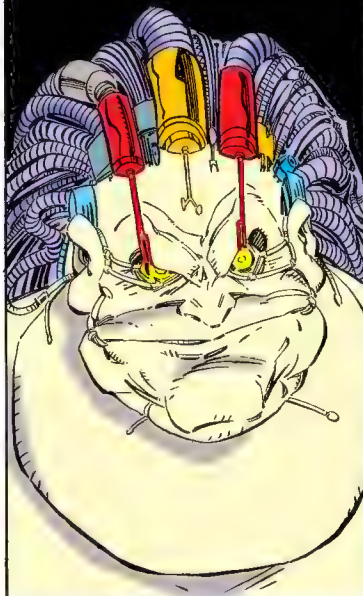
...SWEET!

UNFORTUNATELY, THAT'S BUT A HARBINGER OF THINGS TO COME.

HOUR AFTER HOUR, X-MEN AFTER X-MEN, MUTANTS WITHOUT END, THE AUDITION GOES ON AND ON AND ON AND ON...



...SKINNY X-MEN, FAT X-MEN, GIANT X-MEN, TINY X-MEN, MUSICAL X-MEN, DANCING X-MEN, X-MEN FISH, X-MEN INSECTS, CHIMPS IN X-MEN COSTUMES, X-MEN MIMES...



...MIDGET X-MEN, X-MEN MADE OF STRAW OR BRICK OR MINT CHOCOLATE ICE CREAM! EACH GROUP OF X-MEN MORE BORING, MORE TIRESOME, MORE... MALODOROUS... THAN THE ONE BEFORE...



...UNTIL...

...JUST WHEN HE THOUGHT THINGS COULDN'T GET WORSE...

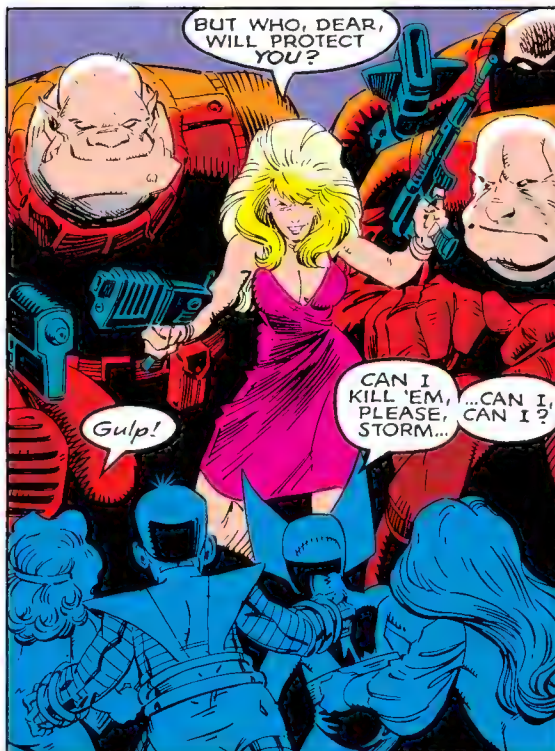
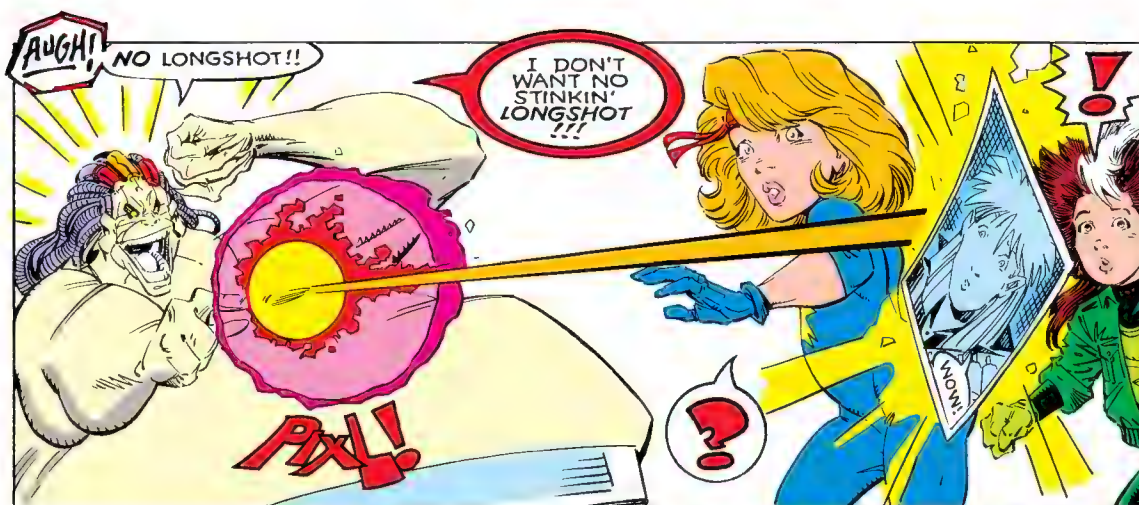
THEY'RE **YOUNG!**
THEY'RE **PROUD!**
THEY'RE **CANTANKEROUS!**
THEY ARE-- **THE MIGHTY X-BABIES!**



I AIN'T NO BABY!

HEADS UP, TUBBY!

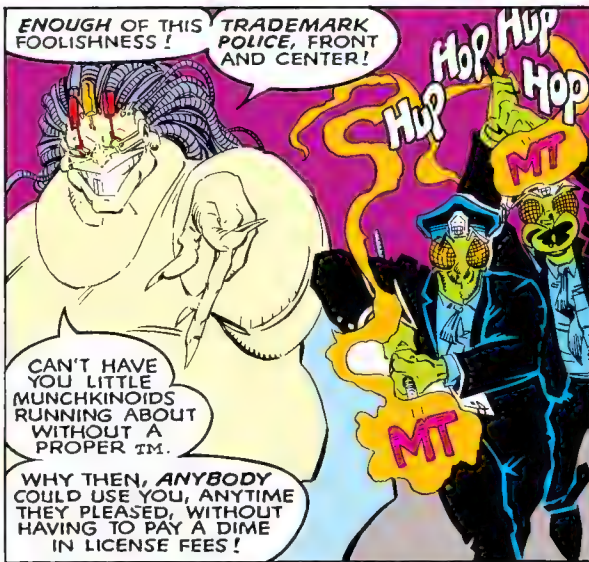
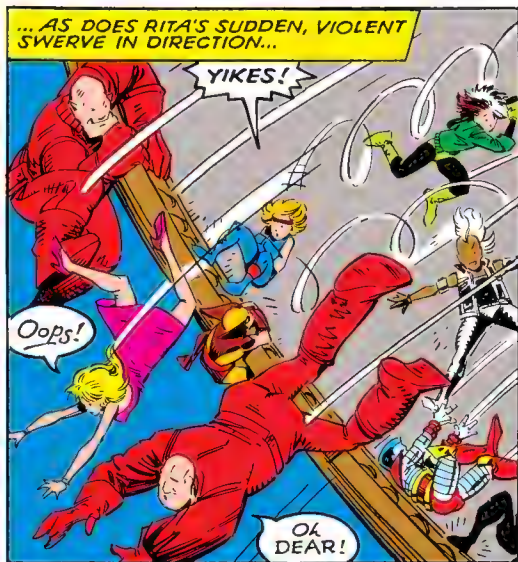
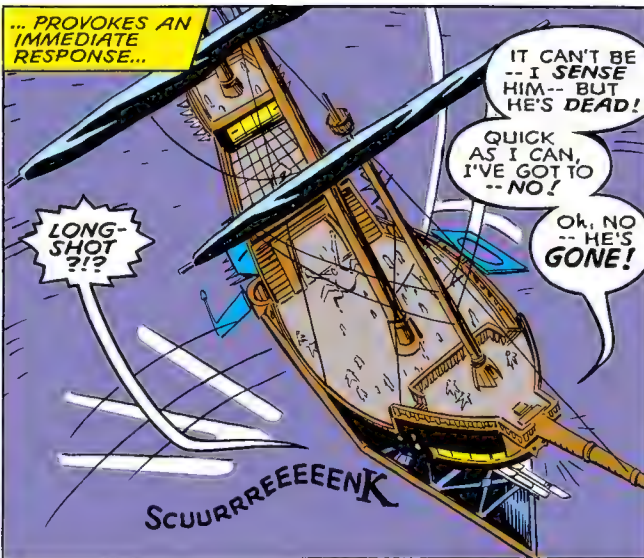
GUESS WHO'S BACK!

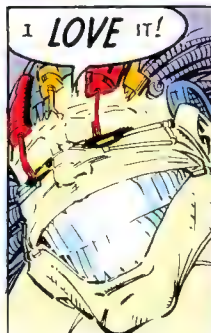
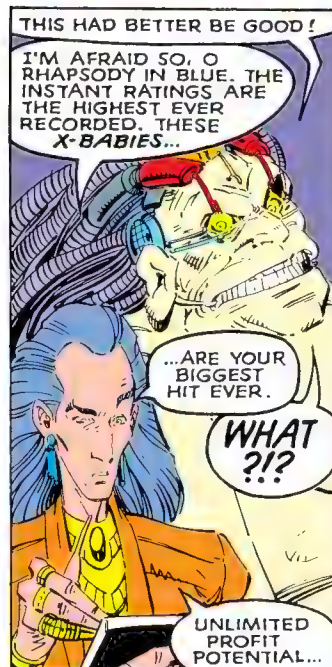
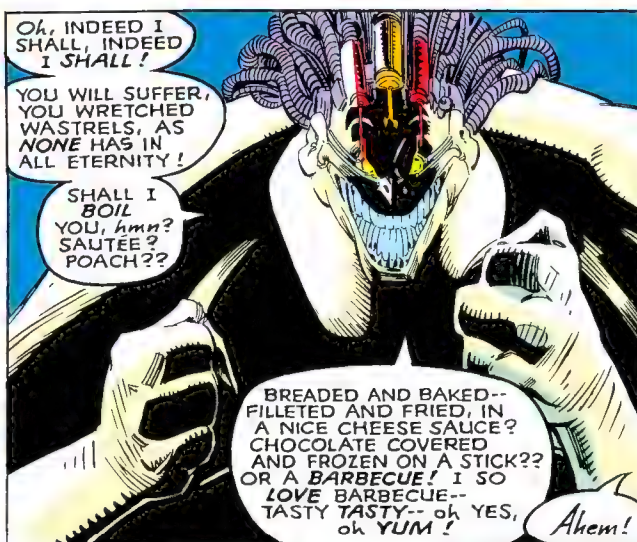
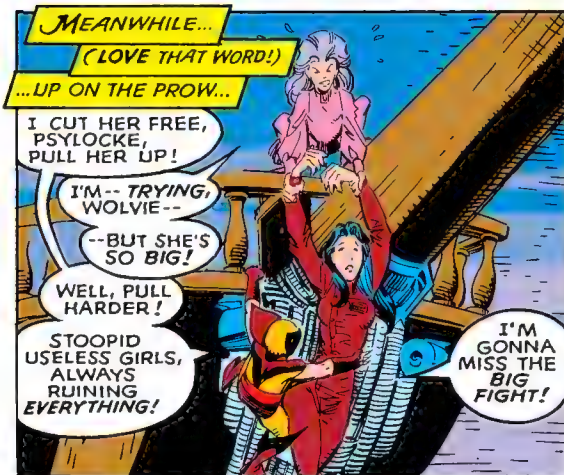


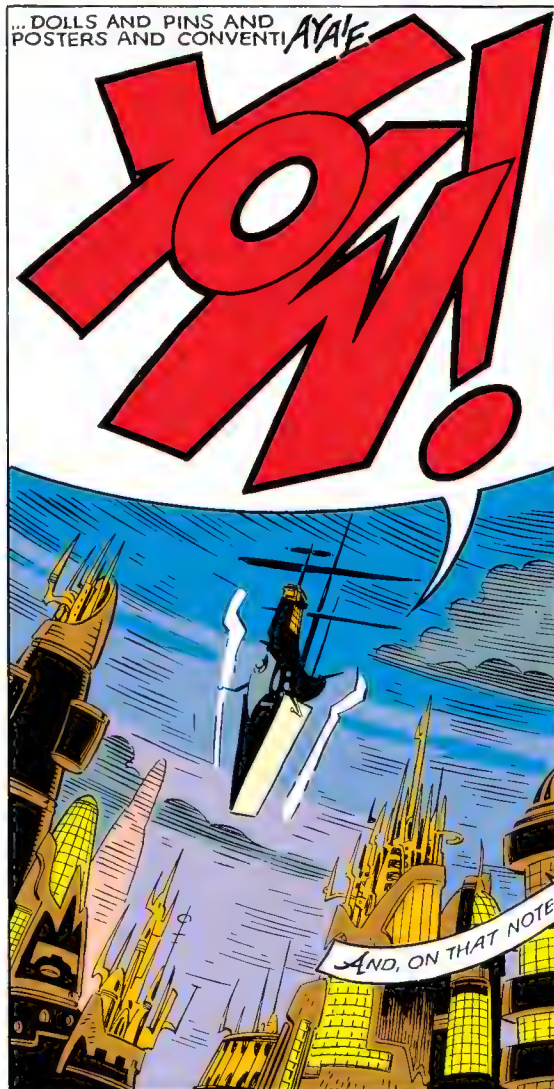
AT THAT VERY (CONVENIENT) MOMENT, BACK ON EARTH, GATEWAY (REMEMBER HIM) FLASHES THE X-MEN (THE REAL ONES, WHO WE KNOW AREN'T DEAD) FROM PLACE TO PLACE (SEE THEIR STORY FOR DETAILS, WE AIN'T GOT ROOM HERE!)



... PROVOKES AN IMMEDIATE RESPONSE...







MARVEL[®]

THE UNCANNY

X-MEN[®]



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\$1.00 US

\$1.25 CAN

235

EARLY OCT

02461

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE



AUTHORITY



LEONARDI + PCB

Welcome to GENOSHA

**THIS IS
THE WORLD.**

...A GREEN AND PLEASANT LAND...

HOPE ^{of} OPPORTUNITY

where the **WATCHWORD** is

FREEDOM!

AK-HUNH
AK-HUNH
AK-HUNH!

**RUN
PRETTY FAR,
huh, BABY-
BOY?**

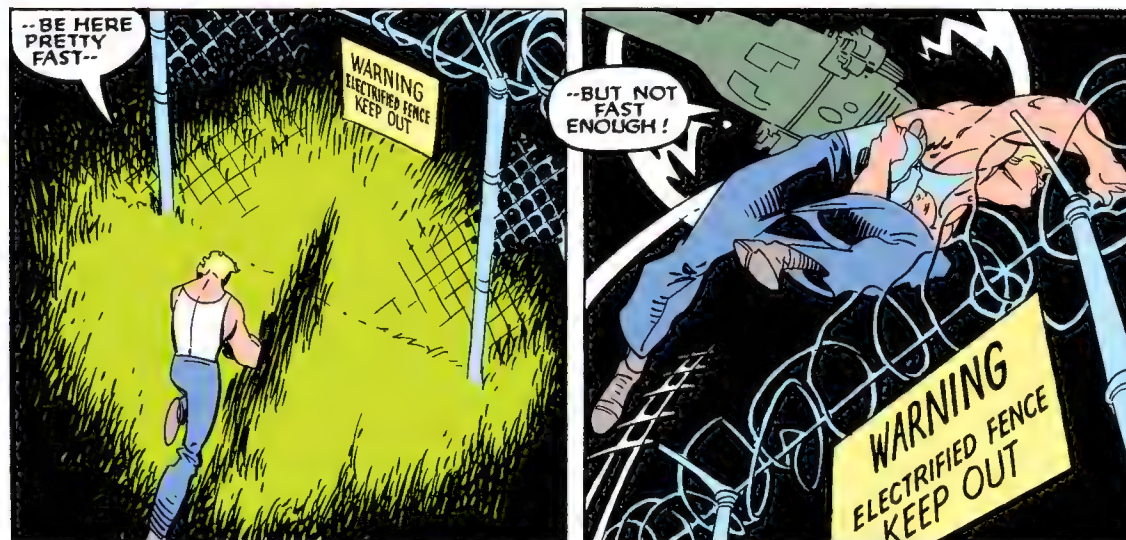
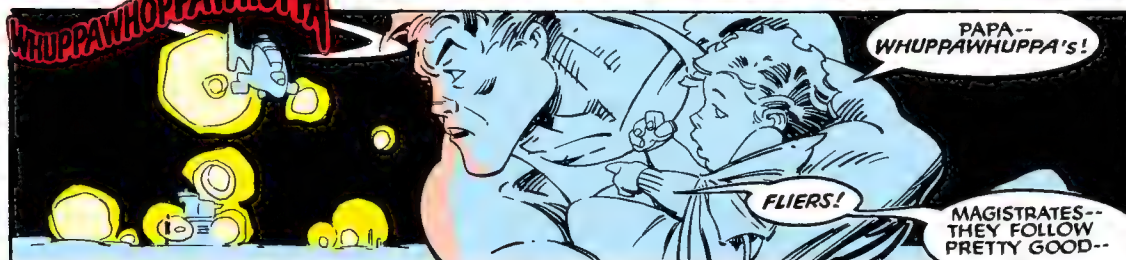
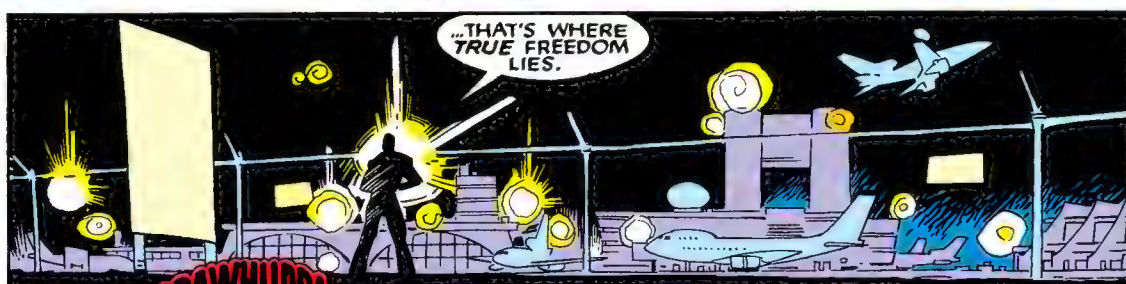
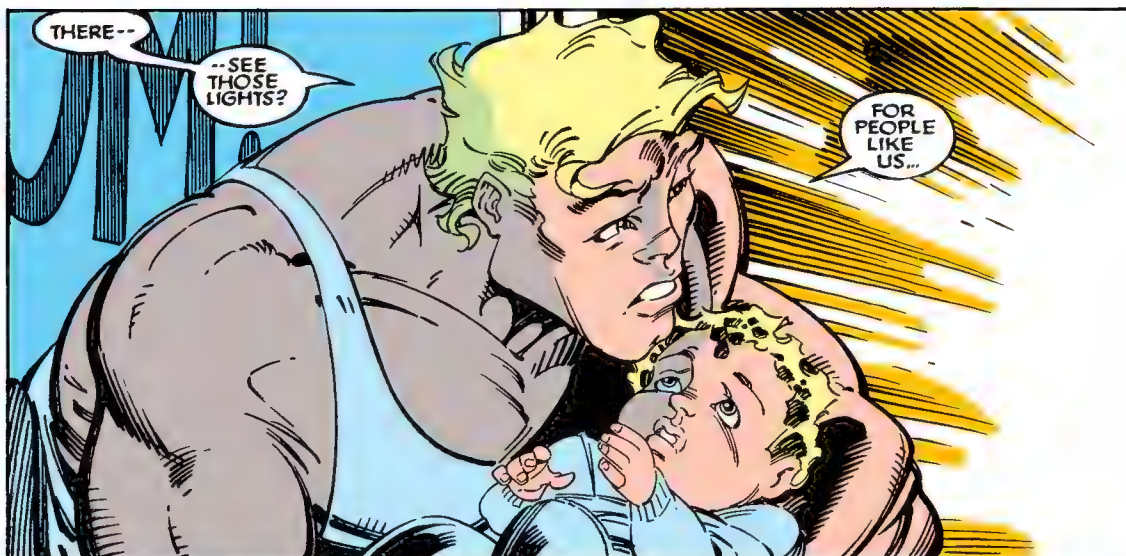
**BUT NOT
TO BE
SCARED.**

ALMOST
DONE.

NOT
FAR
LEFT
TO GO

**A STAN LEE PRESENTATION,
STARRING THE UNCANNY X-MEN**

CHRIS CLAREMONT, WRITER
RICK LEONARDI, PENCILER
P. CRAIG RUSSELL, INKER
GLYNIS OLIVER, COLORIST
TOM ORZECZOWSKI, LETTERER
BOB HARRAS, EDITOR
TOM DeFALCO, EDITOR IN CHIEF





FOOLED 'EM--
ha-hah--

-- BUT NOT FOR LONG--

--US PEOPLE, WE'RE NOT S'POSED TO BE IN THIS FLYWAY PLACE--

--SOON AS I'M SPOTTED...

...MAGISTRATES'LL BE AFTER ME AGAIN.

DON'T MIND. DON'T MATTER.

SO LONG AS YOU'RE SAFE, BABY-BOY.

THIS BIG FLIER'LL TAKE YOU FAR, FAR AWAY...



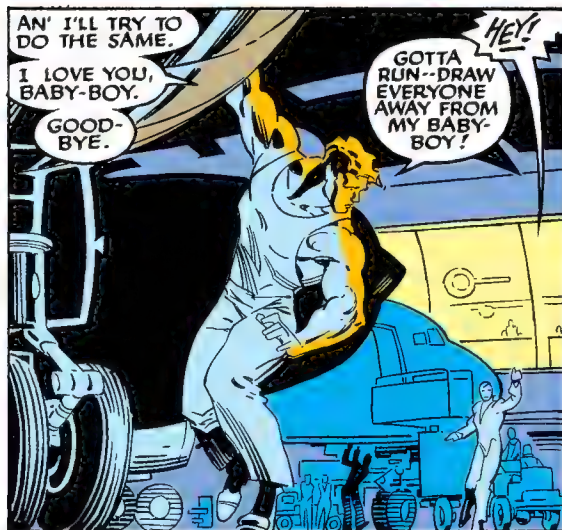
...TO A PLACE WHERE OUR KIND LIVE FREE...

...WHERE YOU'LL BE HAPPY.

I'LL MISS YOU, BABY-BOY.

WISH I COULD GO, TOO.

YOU BE BRAVE.



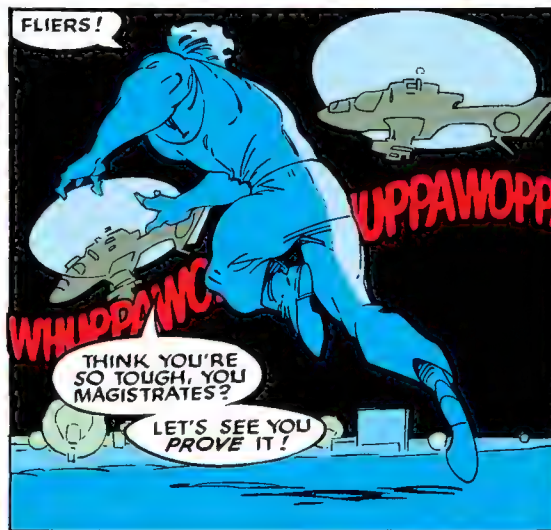
AN' I'LL TRY TO DO THE SAME.

I LOVE YOU, BABY-BOY.

GOOD-BYE.

GOTTA RUN--DRAW EVERYONE AWAY FROM MY BABY-BOY!

HEY!



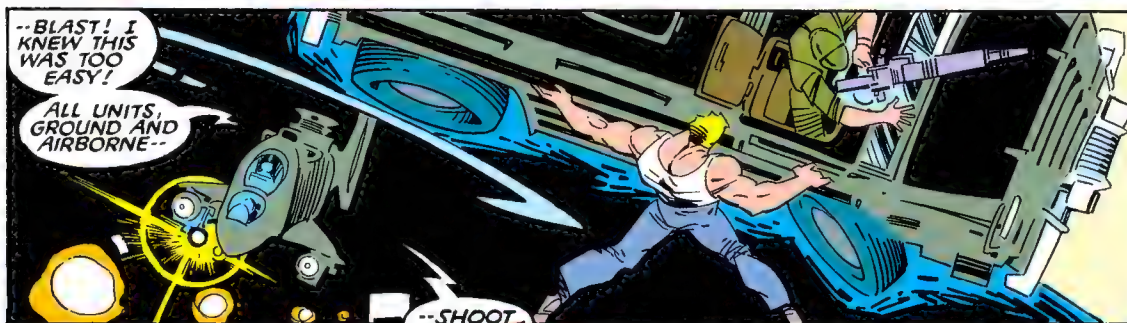
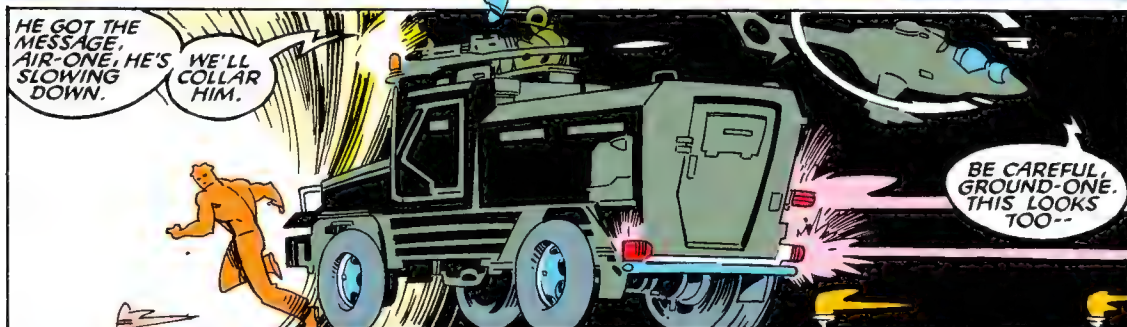
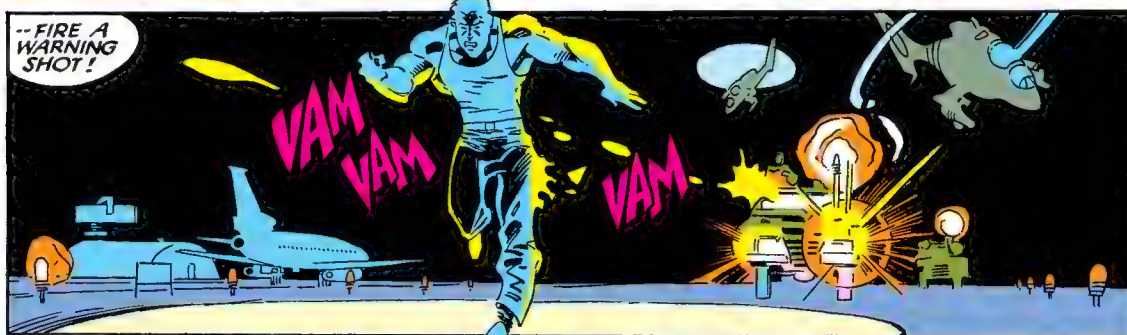
FLIERS!

WHUPPAWOP!

WHUPPAWOP!

THINK YOU'RE SO TOUGH, YOU MAGISTRATES?

LET'S SEE YOU PROVE IT!



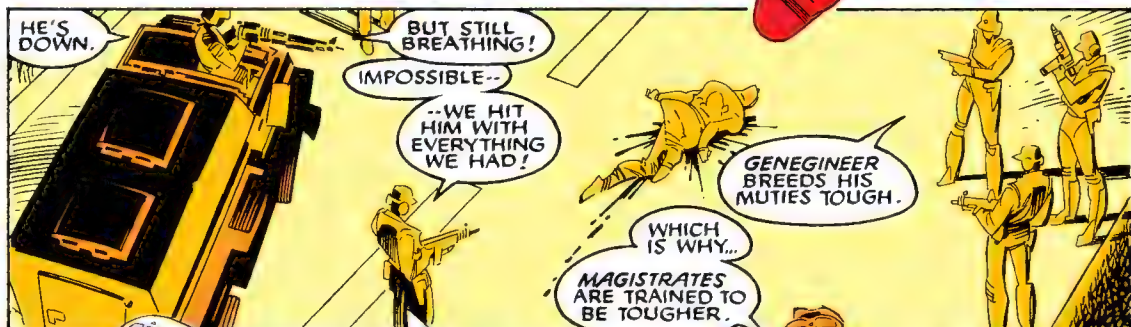
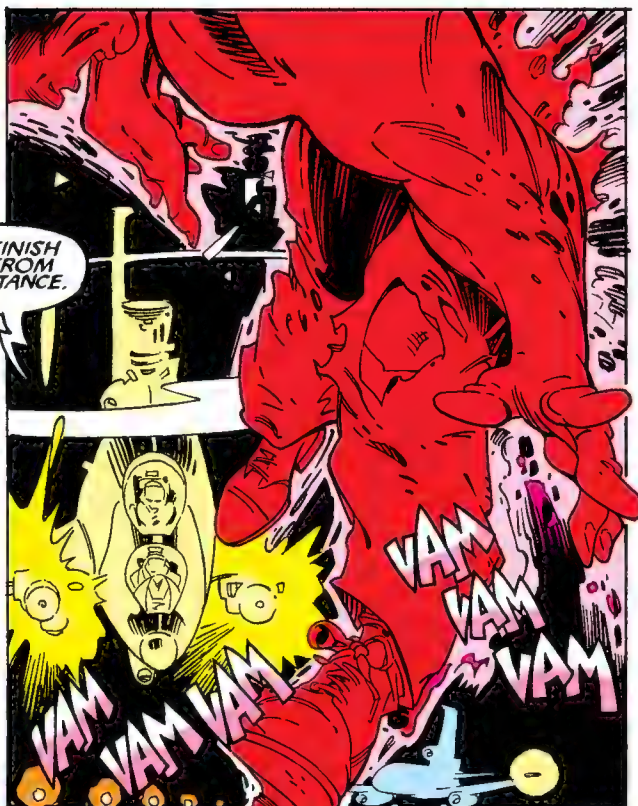


GROUND AND AIR,
RING HIM-- MAKE
SURE THE GENEJOKE
CAN'T ESCAPE.

STAY
CLEAR
OF HIM.

WE'LL
USE OUR
WEAPONS...

...TO FINISH
THIS FROM
A DISTANCE.



HE'S
DOWN.

BUT STILL
BREATHING!

IMPOSSIBLE--

--WE HIT
HIM WITH
EVERYTHING
WE HAD!

GENEENGINEER
BREEDS HIS
MUTIES TOUGH.

WHICH
IS WHY...

MAGISTRATES
ARE TRAINED TO
BE TOUGHER.



BABY...

...BABY-
BOY...

... BOTH
OF US...

... AT
LAST,
WE'RE...

... FREE

NOTIFY
SECURITY-
CENTRAL, MISSION
ACCOMPLISHED.

ESCAPE
ATTEMPT
TERMINATED.

Times of Australia
TUESDAY, AUGUST 5, 1988
PAGE 17

STOWAWAY BABY FOUND IN JET

author: y. Aici
Infor-
mystery
Genost
nus

Marino wine pool
Cairn
Ch
F

ORDERS ARE, WHEN THIS JOB'S DONE, WE'RE TO COLLECT THIS GENE-JOKE BABY AND RETURN IT HOME AS WELL.

FUNNY, Y'KNOW-- I THOUGHT MUTIES WEREN'T ALLOWED TO BREED.

ACCIDENTS WILL HAPPEN, PIPELINE.

MUTIE HAS A KID, OR A GOVERNMENT MINISTER HAS A MUTIE KID, IT'S ALL THE SAME.

... HALF A WORLD TOWARDS THE SUNRISE...

TWO DAYS LATER...

I SUPPOSE.

Y'KNOW, HAWKSHAW-- THIS JENNIFER RANSOME DOESN'T LOOK LIKE ANY MUTIE.

THEY DON'T ALL HAVE HORNS AN' TAILS, DOOFUS.

GIMME A BREAK!

I READ HER DOSSIER, Y'KNOW. SHE'S A NICE KID. SHAME THIS HAS TO HAPPEN.

SHE'S ONLY HERSELF TO BLAME.

SHE KNEW THE LAW.

SHE KNEW HER DUTY.

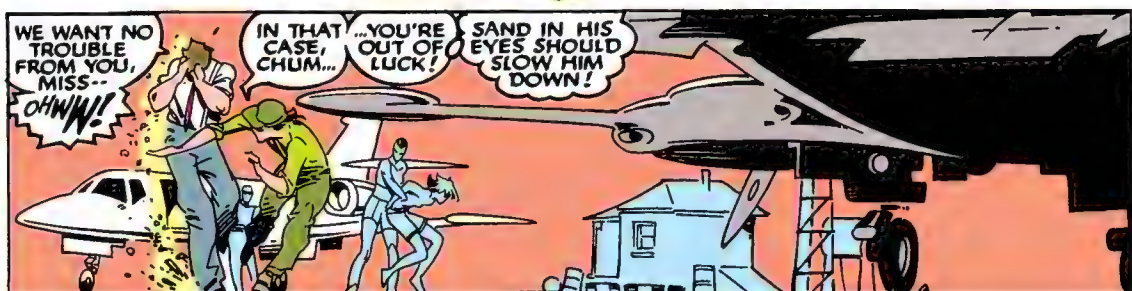
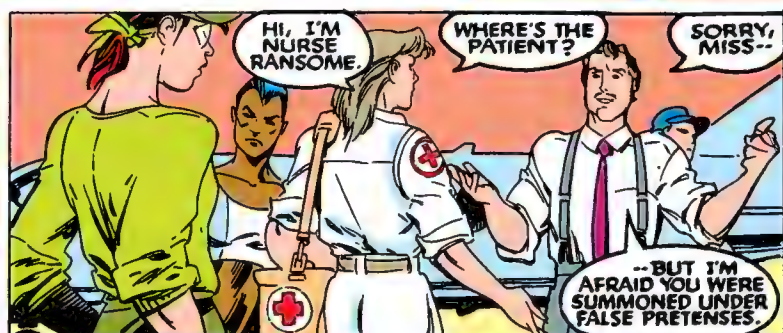
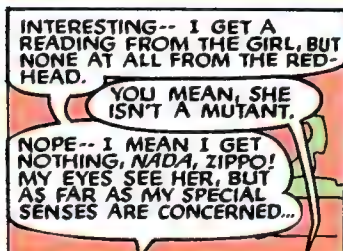
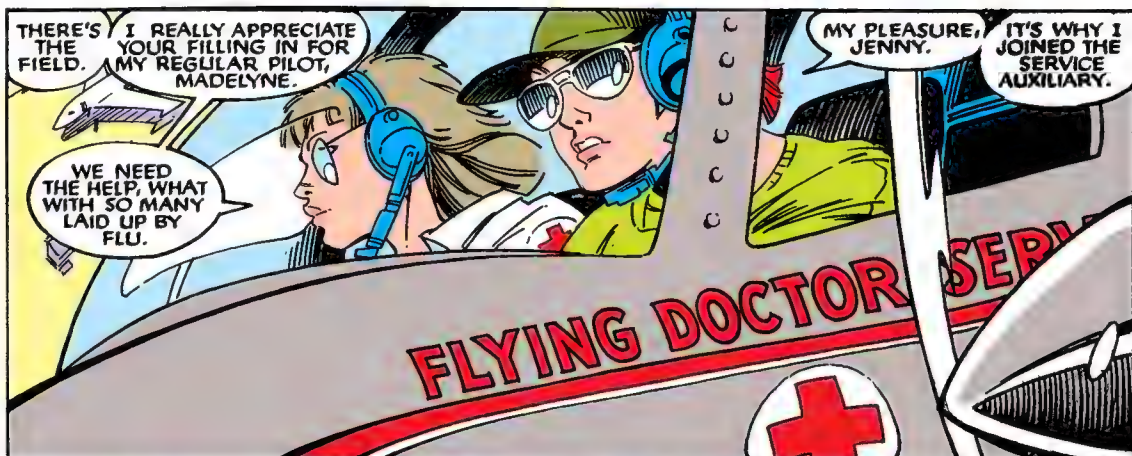
BUT SHE TRIED TO HIDE HER TEST RESULTS, THEN SHE FLED THE COUNTRY.

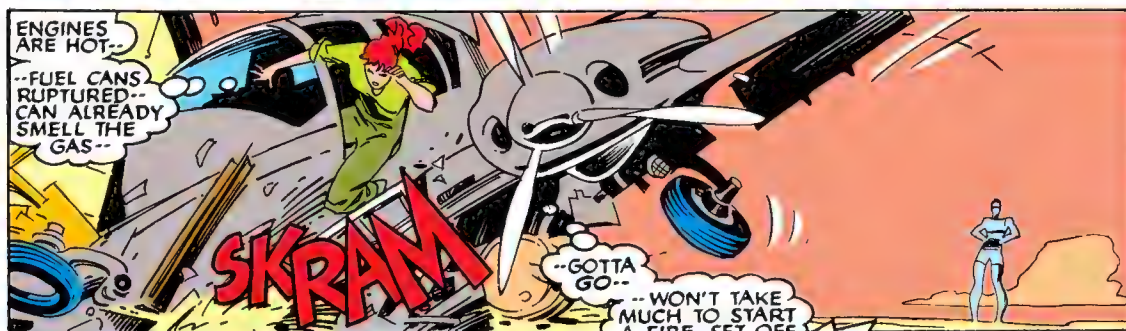
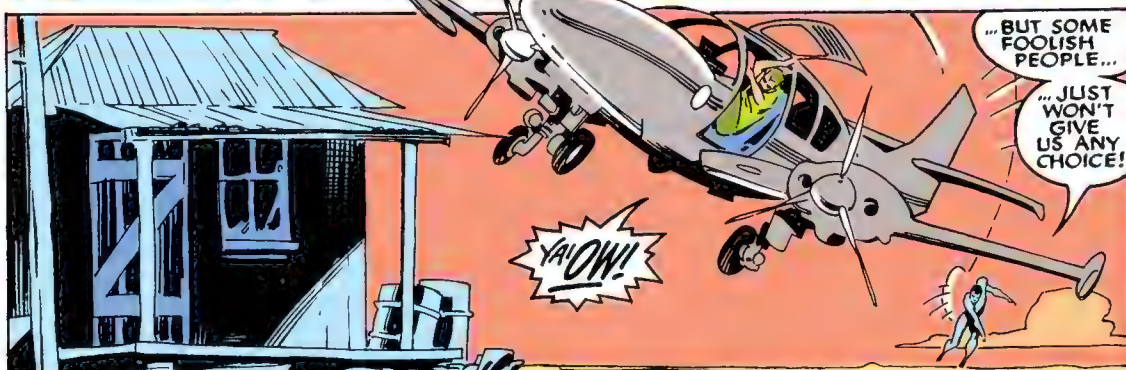
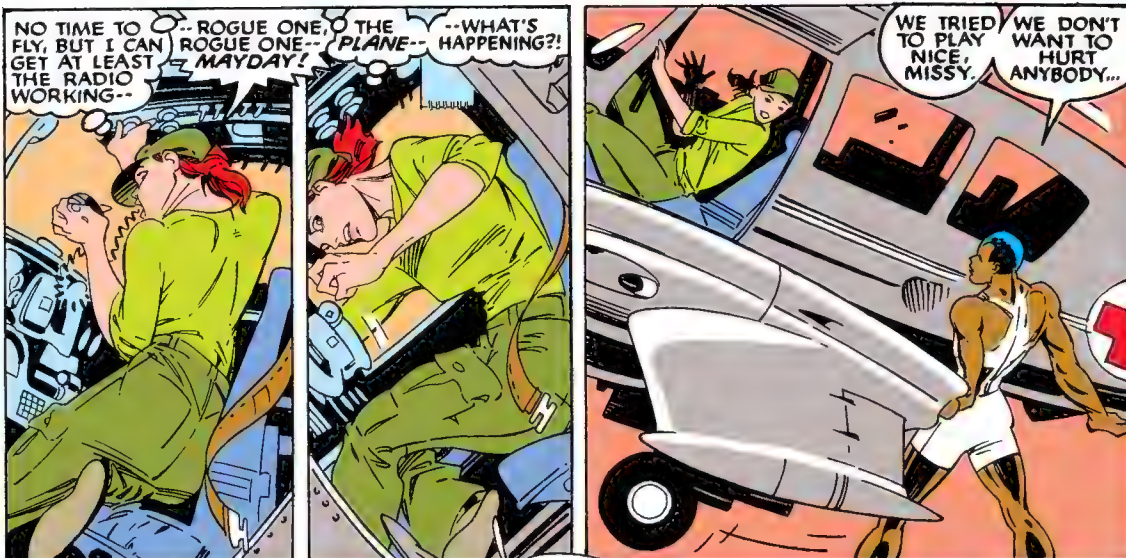
HOW'S THAT SUPPOSED TO SET AN EXAMPLE FOR THE REST OF HER GENERATION, huh?!

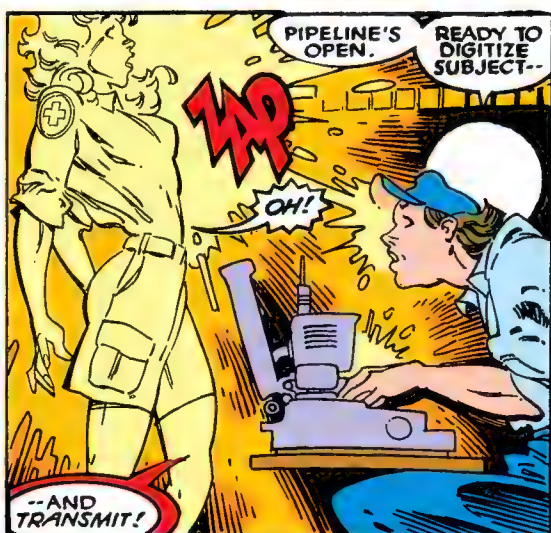
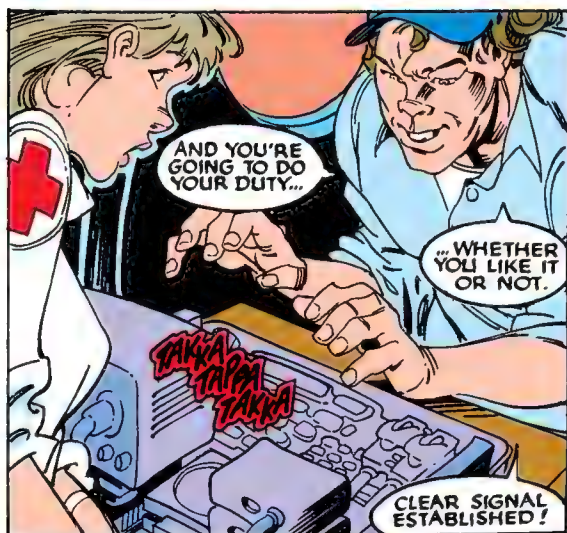
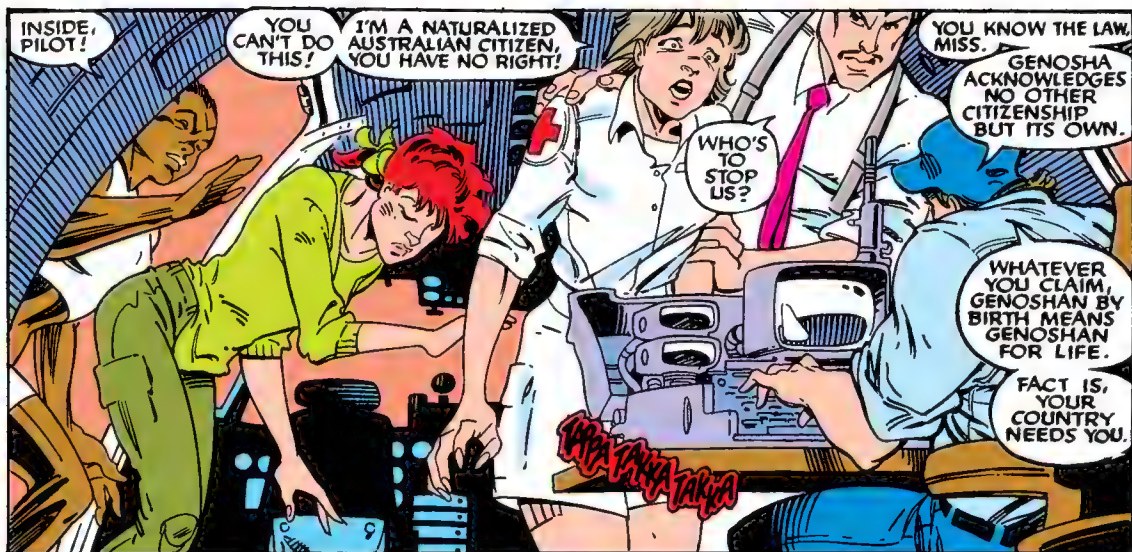
SHE HAS NO RIGHT TO SHIRK HER RESPONSIBILITIES-- ESPECIALLY BECAUSE OF HER PRIVILEGED POSITION!

CAN THE CHATTER, PUNCHOUT.

THERE'S OUR PIGEON.







A LITTLE LATER...

NOT THE MOST SUBTLE ENTRANCE. AS A SONIC BOOM HERALDS ROGUE'S ARRIVAL.

IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE, SHE CROSSES THE DISTANCE BETWEEN HORIZON AND AIRSTRIP.

SHE DOESN'T LIKE WHAT SHE FINDS.

PSYLOCKE, YOU "HEAR" WHAT AH'M THINKIN'?

AS WELL AS I CAN, GIVEN YOUR NATURAL RESISTANCE TO MY TELEPATHIC POWERS.

AH FOUND MADELYNE'S BEECHCRAFT.

HOPE Y'ALL CAN "SEE" ITS IMAGE IN MY MIND'S-EYE...

...AND GET A FIX ON MY POSITION.

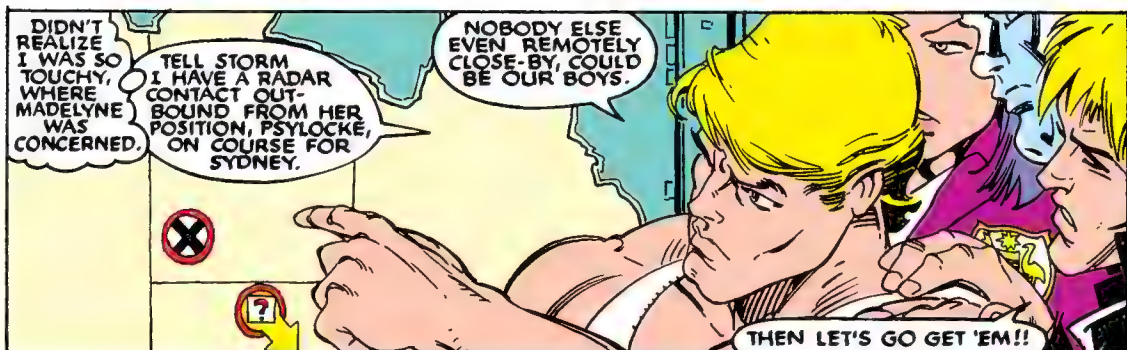
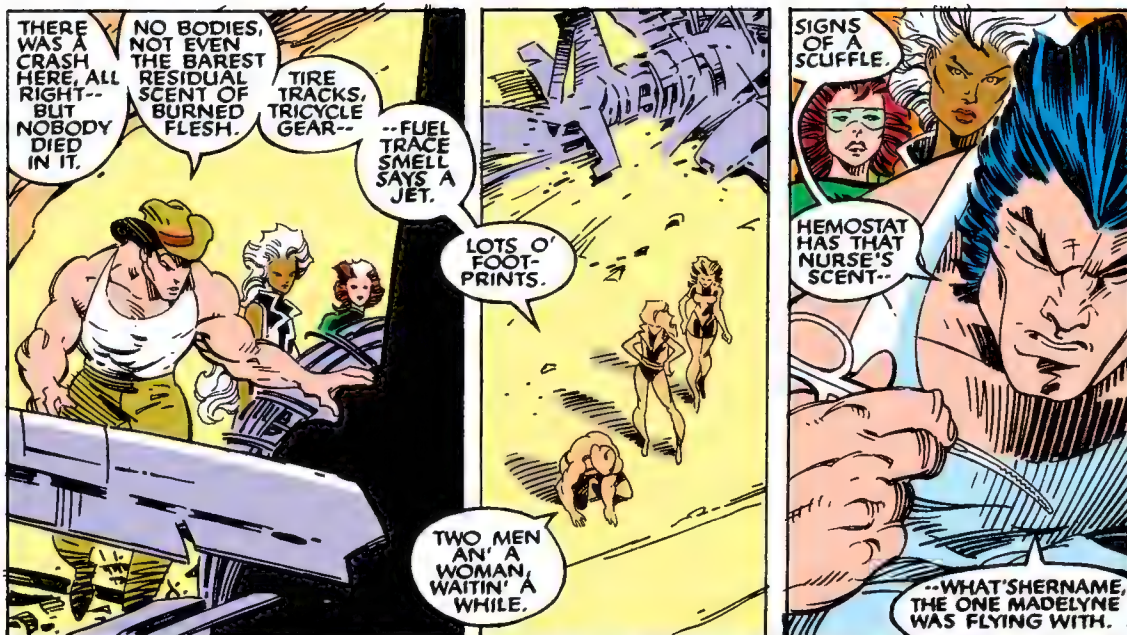
BOTH DONE.

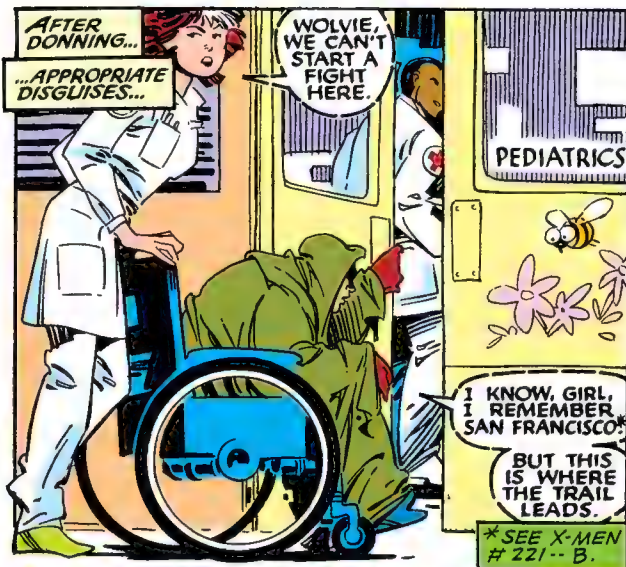
GATEWAY IS TELEPORTING STORM AND WOLVERINE TO YOUR LOCATION.

SO AH NOTICE.

HANG LOOSE, SUGAR.

WE'LL LET Y'ALL KNOW, SOON AS WE LEARN SOMETHING.





AFTER
DONNING...

...APPROPRIATE
DISGUISES...

WOLVIE,
WE CAN'T
START A
FIGHT
HERE.

PEDIATRICS

I KNOW, GIRL,
I REMEMBER
SAN FRANCISCO!

BUT THIS
IS WHERE
THE TRAIL
LEADS.

*SEE X-MEN
221-- B.



PEDIATRICS-- WHAT
DO THESE CREEPS
WANT WITH BABIES?!

I'M SORRY,
THIS IS A
RESTRICTED
AREA.

MAN, WE
WRECKED THAT
HOSPITAL IN
SAN FRAN
FIGHTIN' THE
MARAUDERS.

IT WAS A
MIRACLE NO
PATIENTS
DIED.

AH
DON'T WANT
TO PUSH OUR
LUCK
HERE.



DON'T
BOTHR
ME NONE,
BABE.

SOK!

WOLVIE--?!!

SHE'S A
BAD GUY,
DARLIN'...



...THE ONE WHO
TRASHED MADEL

OWH!

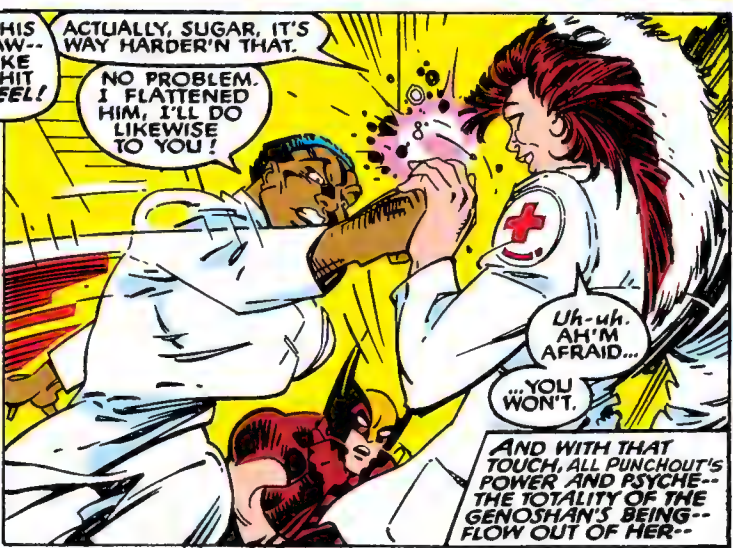


MY
HAND--

--HIS
JAW--
LIKE
I HIT
STEEL!

ACTUALLY, SUGAR, IT'S
WAY HARDER'N THAT.

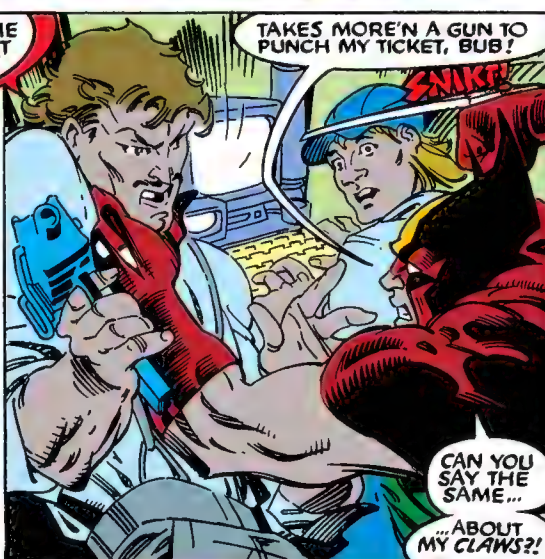
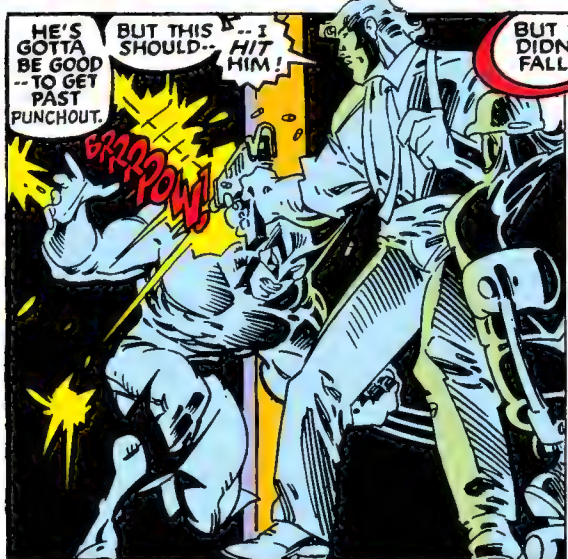
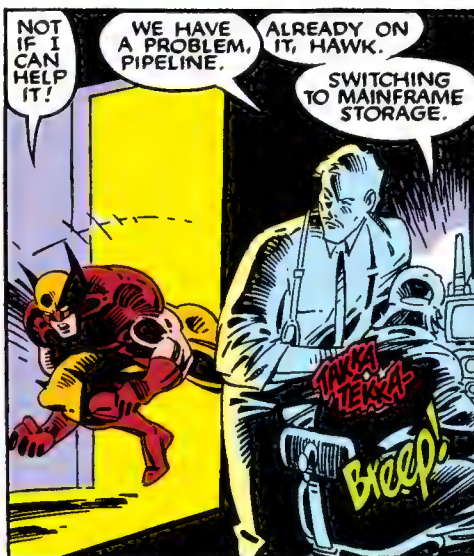
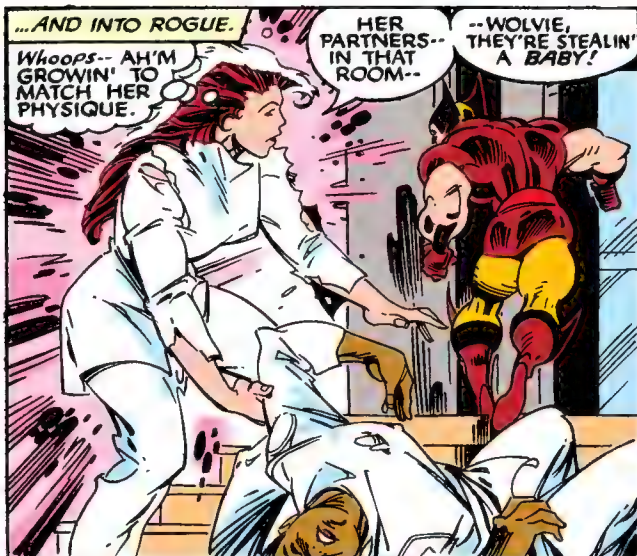
NO PROBLEM.
I FLATTENED
HIM, I'LL DO
LIKewise
TO YOU!

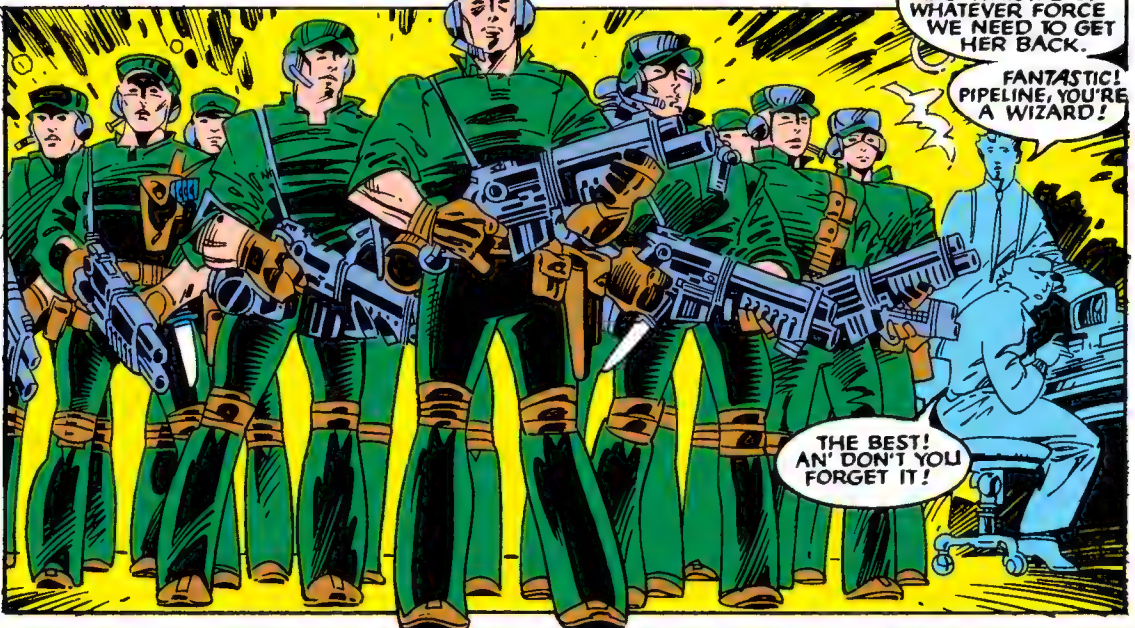
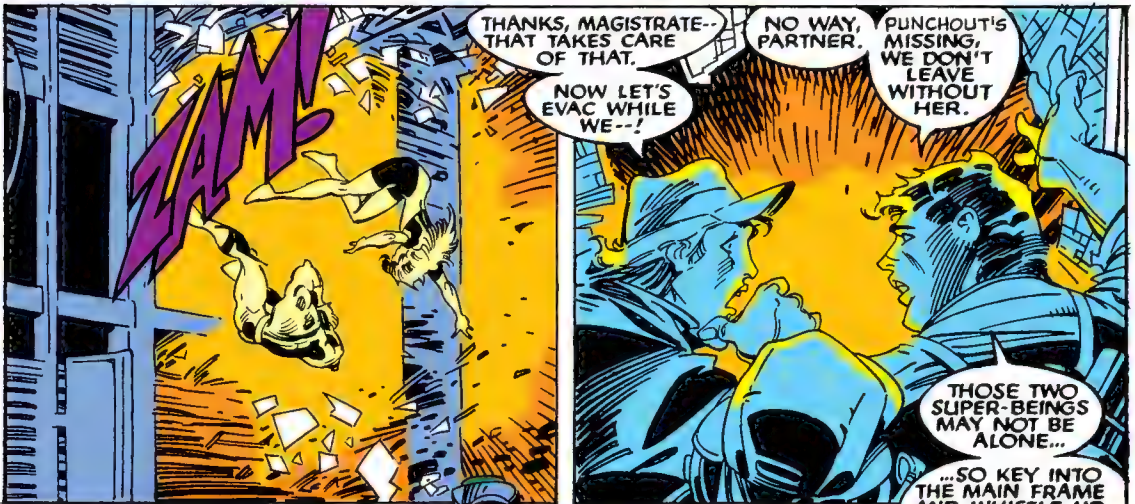
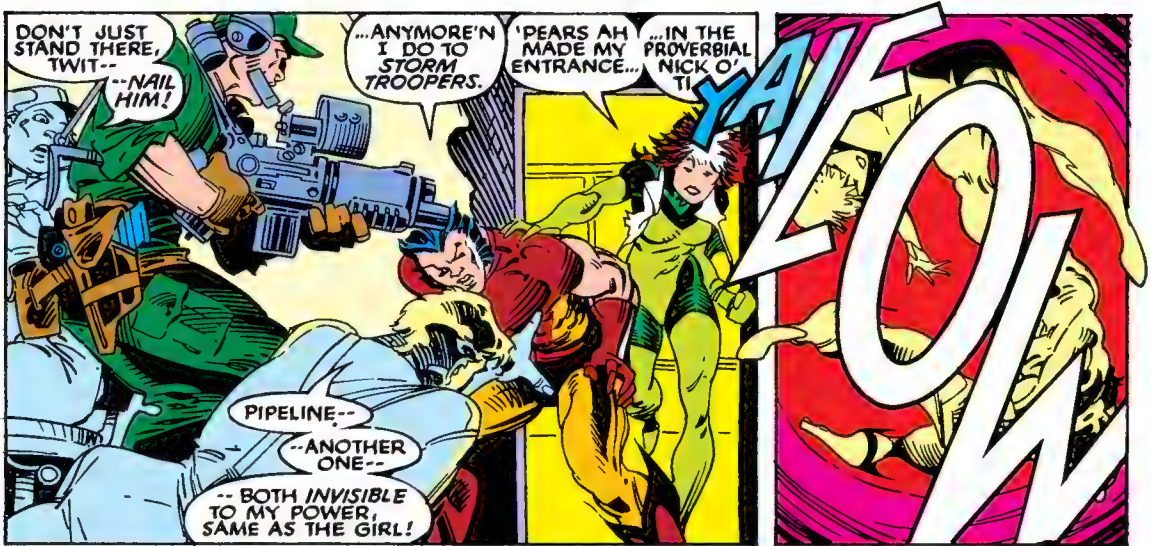


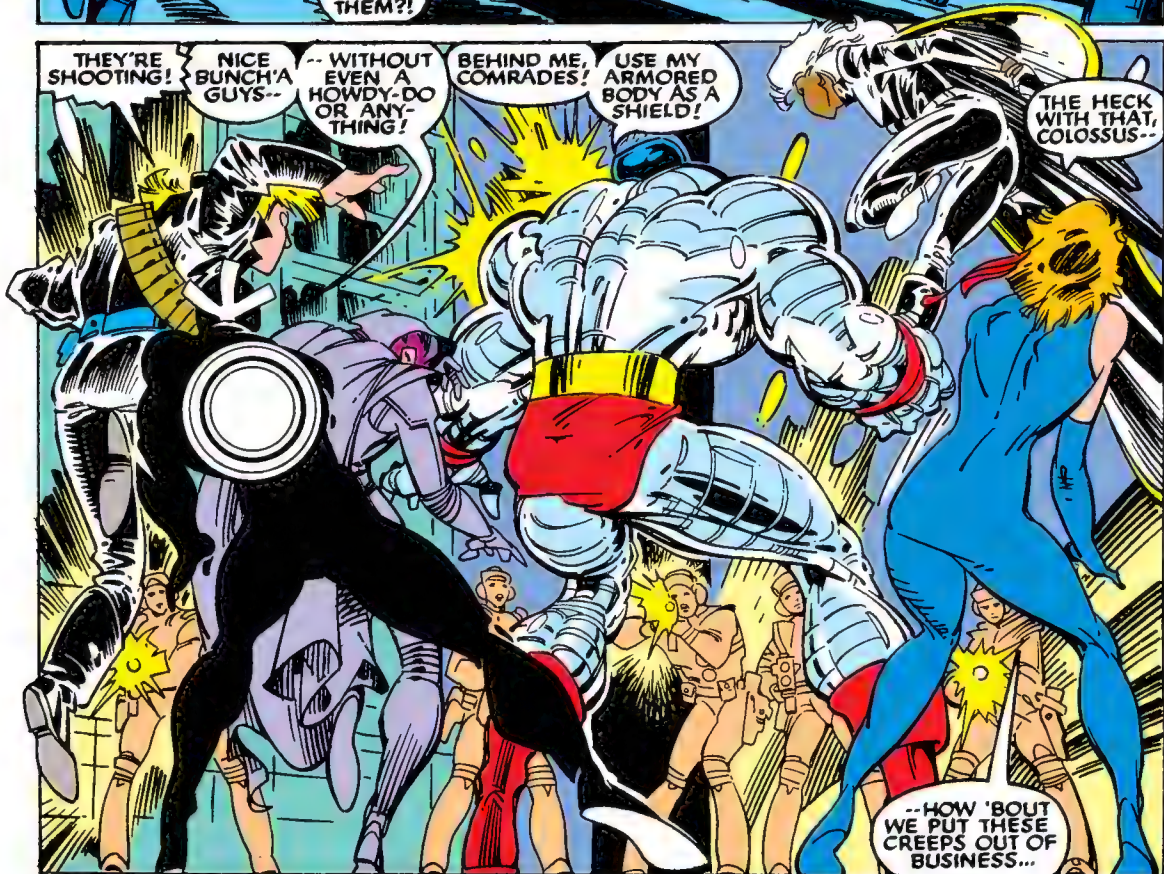
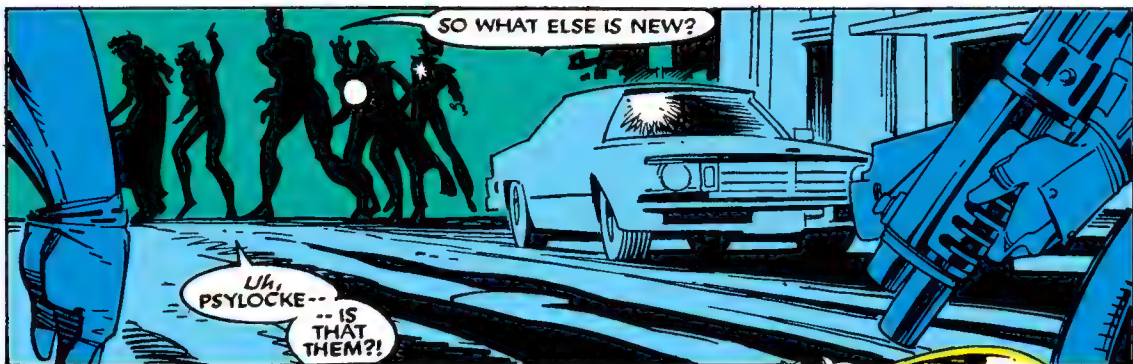
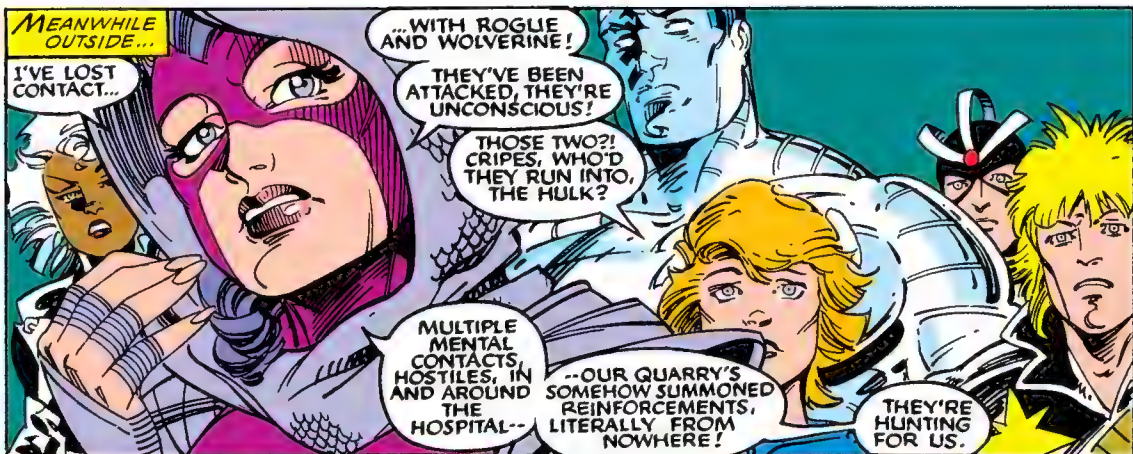
Uh-uh.
AH'M
AFRAID...

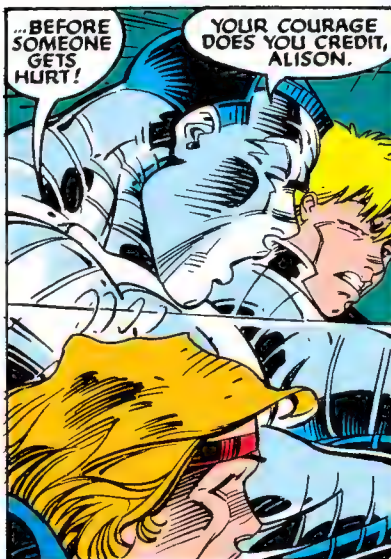
...YOU
WON'T.

AND WITH THAT
TOUCH, ALL PUNCHOUT'S
POWER AND PSYCHE--
THE TOTALITY OF THE
GENOSHAN'S BEING--
FLOW OUT OF HER--



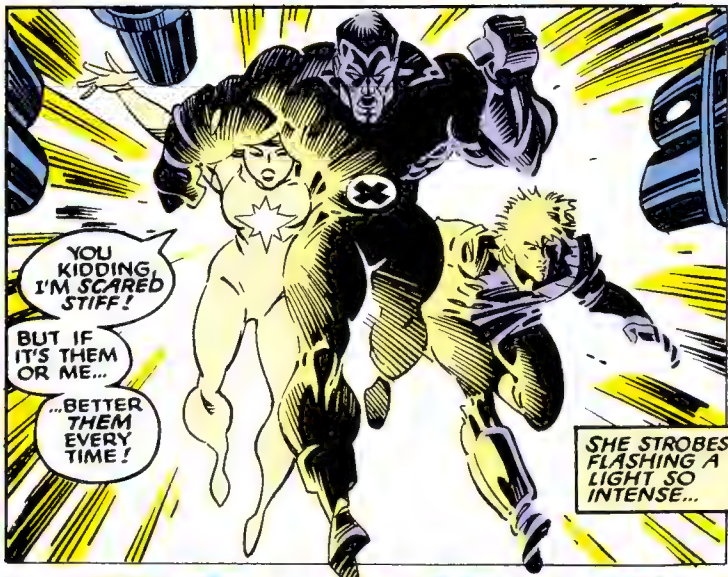






...BEFORE SOMEONE GETS HURT!

YOUR COURAGE DOES YOU CREDIT, ALISON.

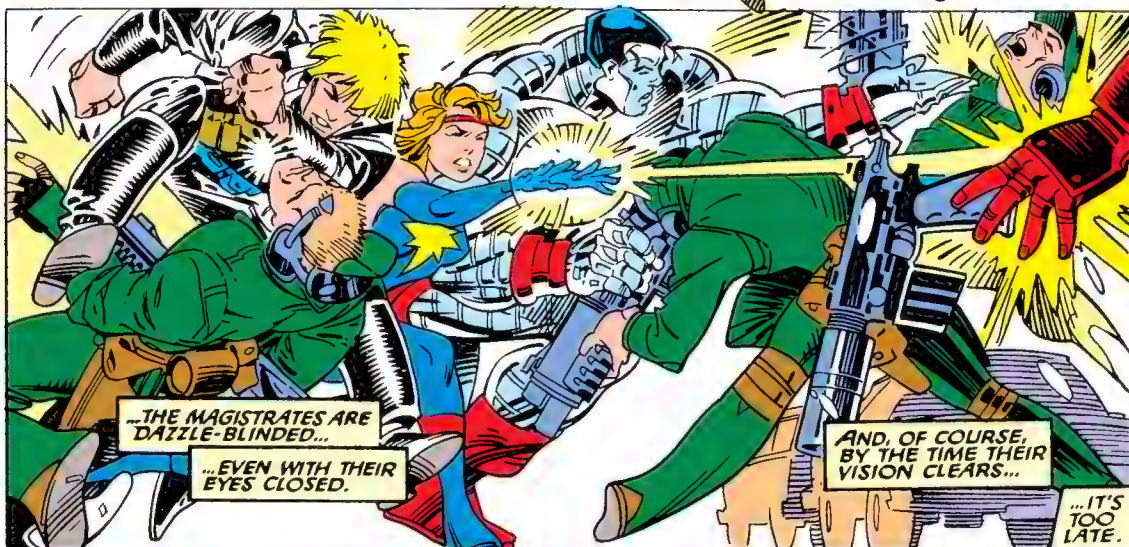


YOU KIDDING I'M SCARED STIFF!

BUT IF IT'S THEM OR ME...

...BETTER THEM EVERY TIME!

SHE STROBES, FLASHING A LIGHT SO INTENSE...

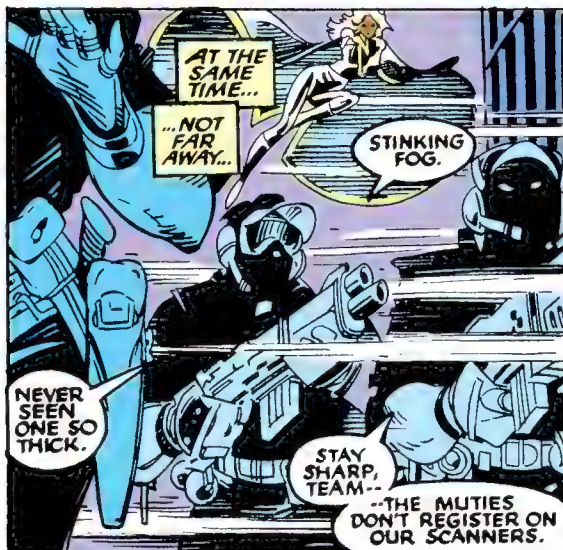


...THE MAGISTRATES ARE DAZZLE-BLINDED...

...EVEN WITH THEIR EYES CLOSED.

AND, OF COURSE, BY THE TIME THEIR VISION CLEARS...

...IT'S TOO LATE.



AT THE SAME TIME...

...NOT FAR AWAY...

STINKING FOG.

NEVER SEEN ONE SO THICK.

STAY SHARP, TEAM...

...THE MUTIES DON'T REGISTER ON OUR SCANNERS.



PSYLOCKE--

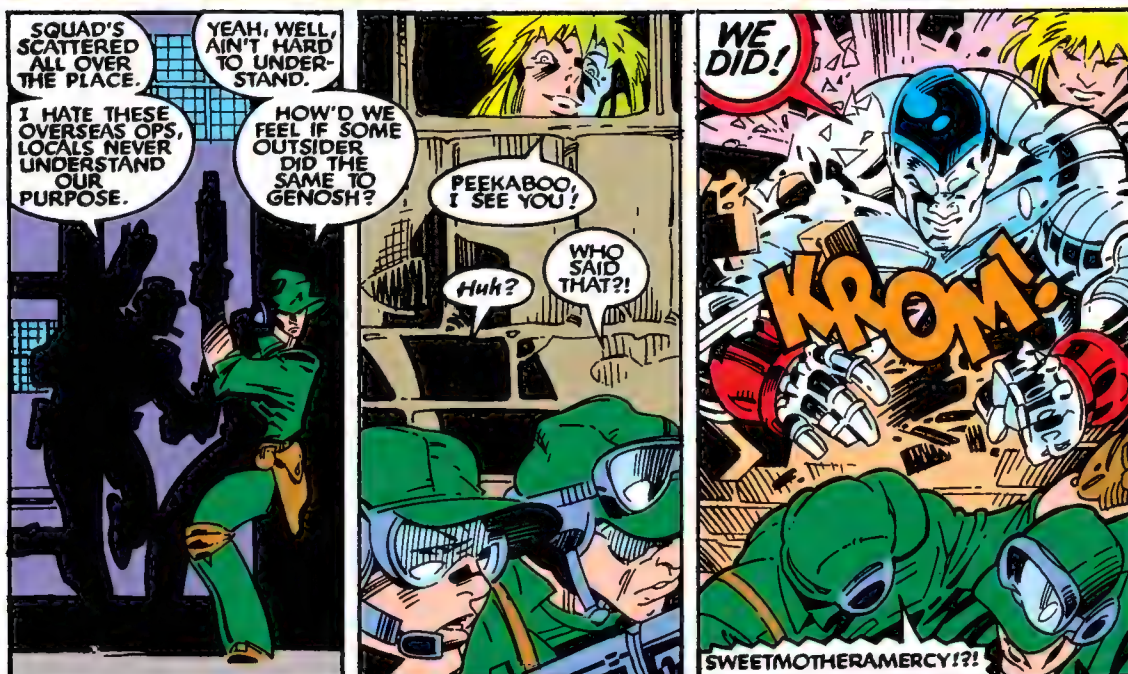
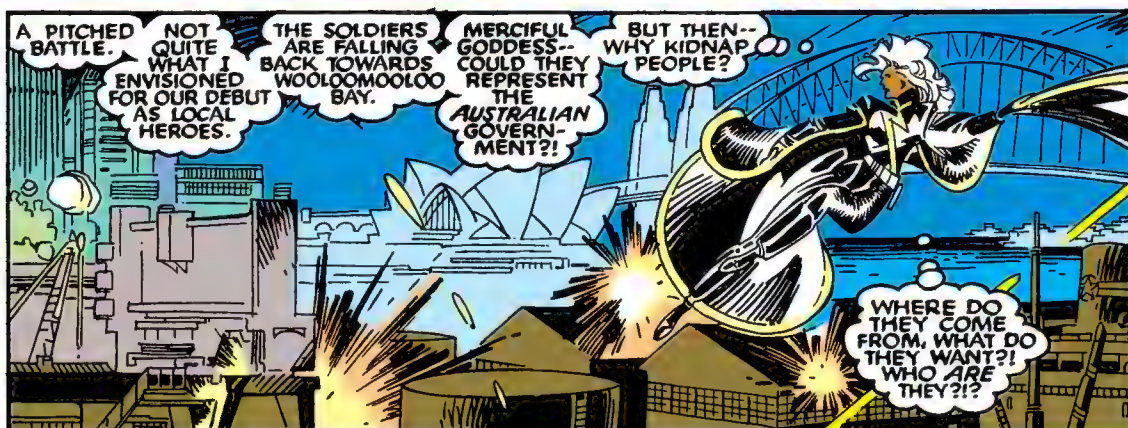
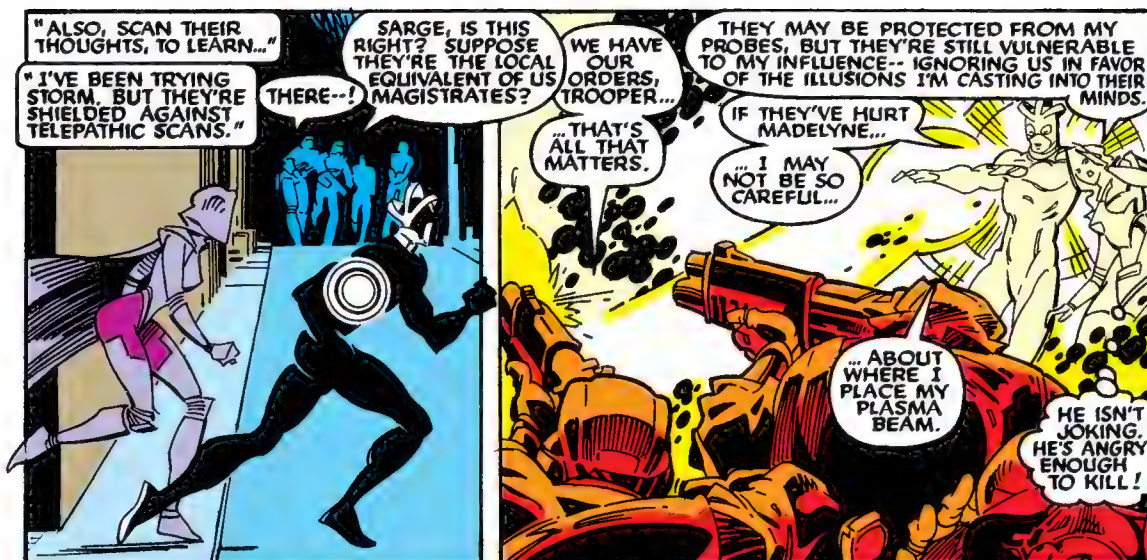
I HEAR YOU, STORM.

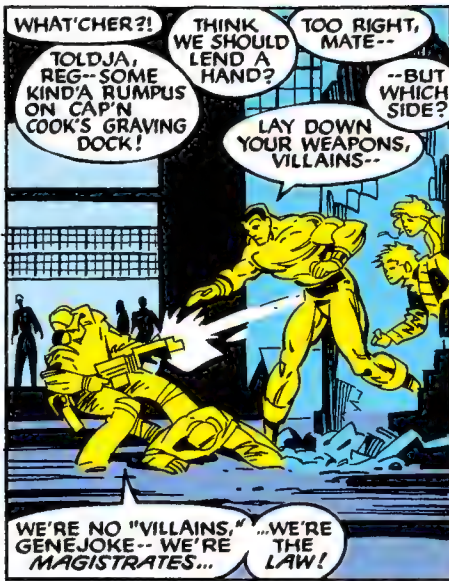
--LURE THESE TROOPS AWAY FROM THE HOSPITAL.

WE CANNOT CONFRONT THEM HERE--THEY ARE TOO HEAVILY ARMED--THERE IS TOO MUCH RISK TO INNOCENT BYSTANDERS.

WILL DO.

C'MON, HAVOK. TIME FOR SOME GRATUITOUS HEROICS.





WHAT'CHER?!

TOLDJA, REG-- SOME KIND'A RUMPUS ON CAP'N COOK'S GRAVING DOCK!

THINK WE SHOULD LEND A HAND?

TOO RIGHT, MATE--

--BUT WHICH SIDE?

LAY DOWN YOUR WEAPONS, VILLAINS--

WE'RE NO "VILLAINS," GENEJOKE-- WE'RE MAGISTRATES...

...WE'RE THE LAW!



CRIPES-- CIVILIANS!

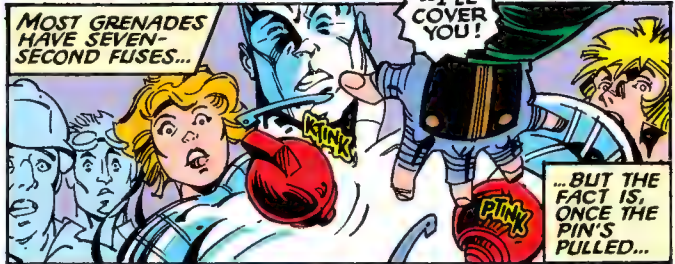
--GET THEM AWAY FROM HERE, MY FRIENDS, AT ONCE!

BOSZHE MOI--

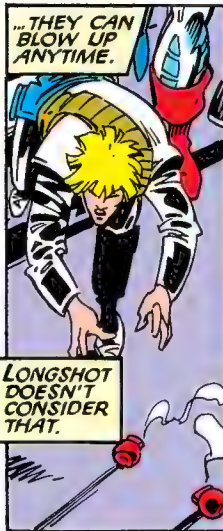
HIT THE BRICKS, TROOPER--

MOST GRENADES HAVE SEVEN SECOND FUSES...

--I'LL COVER YOU!

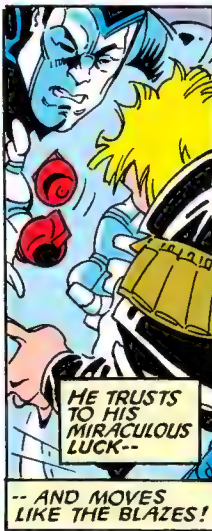


...BUT THE FACT IS, ONCE THE PIN'S PULLED...



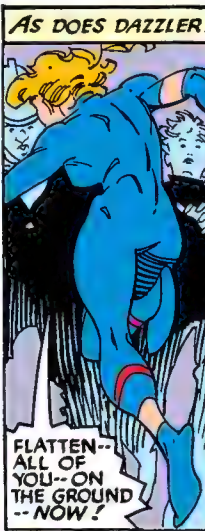
...THEY CAN BLOW UP ANYTIME.

LONGSHOT DOESN'T CONSIDER THAT.



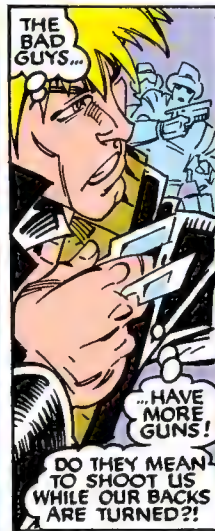
HE TRUSTS TO HIS MIRACULOUS LUCK--

-- AND MOVES LIKE THE BLAZES!



AS DOES DAZZLER.

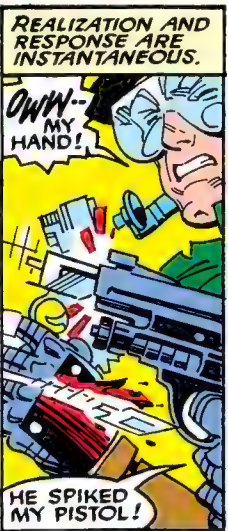
FLATTEN-- ALL OF YOU-- ON THE GROUND -- NOW!



THE BAD GUYS...

...HAVE MORE GUNS!

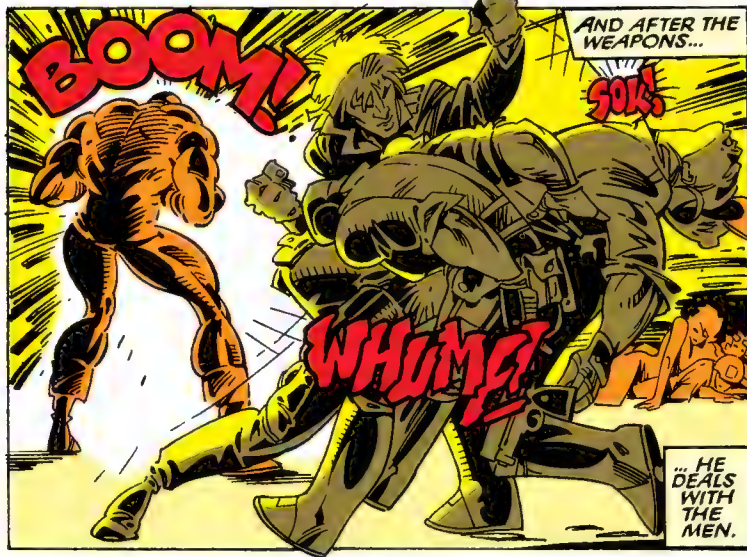
DO THEY MEAN TO SHOOT US WHILE OUR BACKS ARE TURNED?!



REALIZATION AND RESPONSE ARE INSTANTANEOUS.

OWN-- MY HAND!

HE SPIKED MY PISTOL!



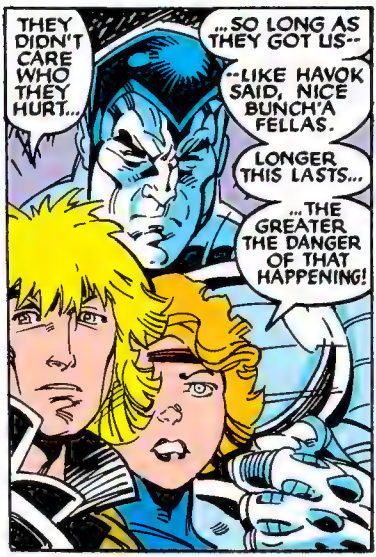
BOOM!

AND AFTER THE WEAPONS...

SOK!

WHUMET!

...HE DEALS WITH THE MEN.



THEY DIDN'T CARE WHO THEY HURT...

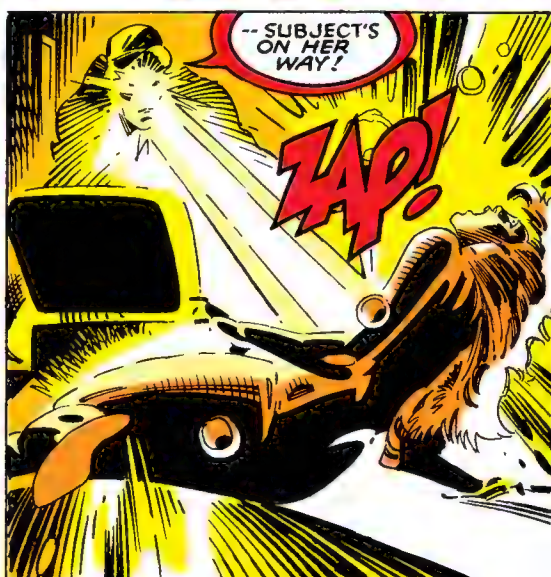
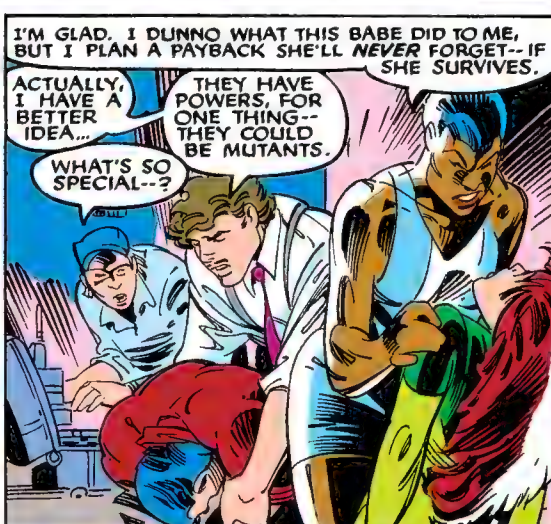
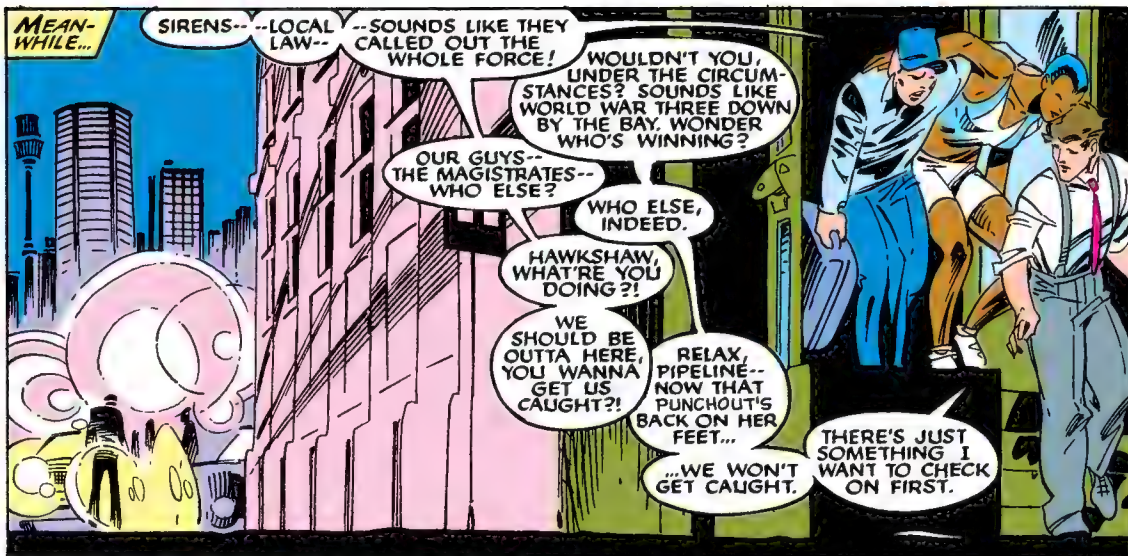
...SO LONG AS THEY GOT US--

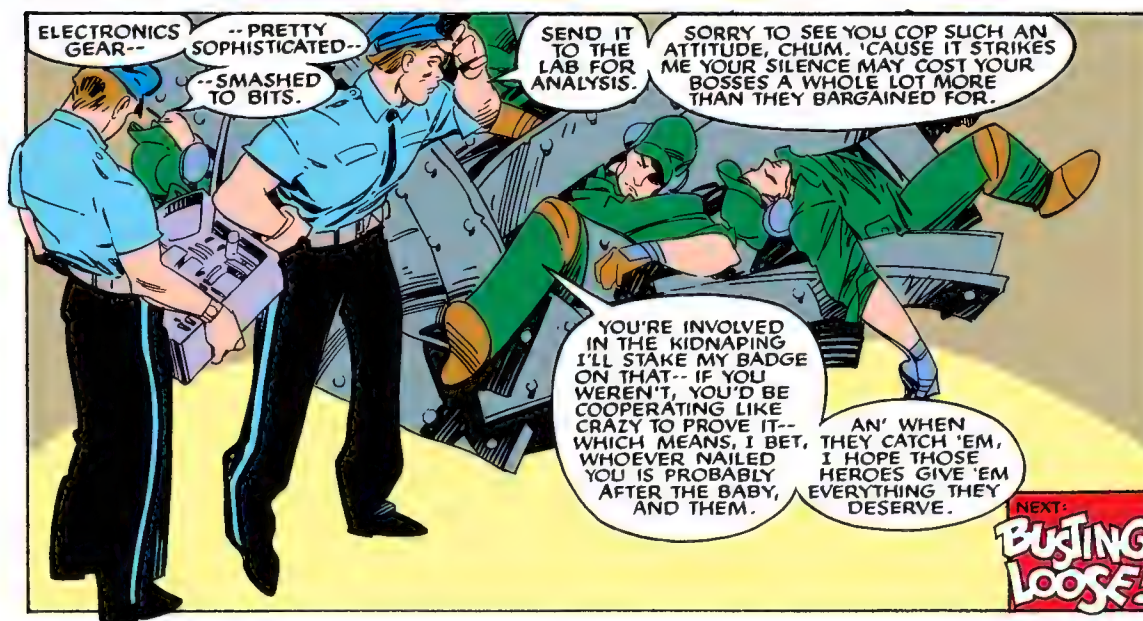
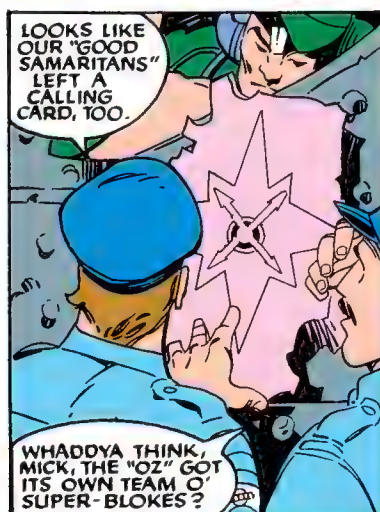
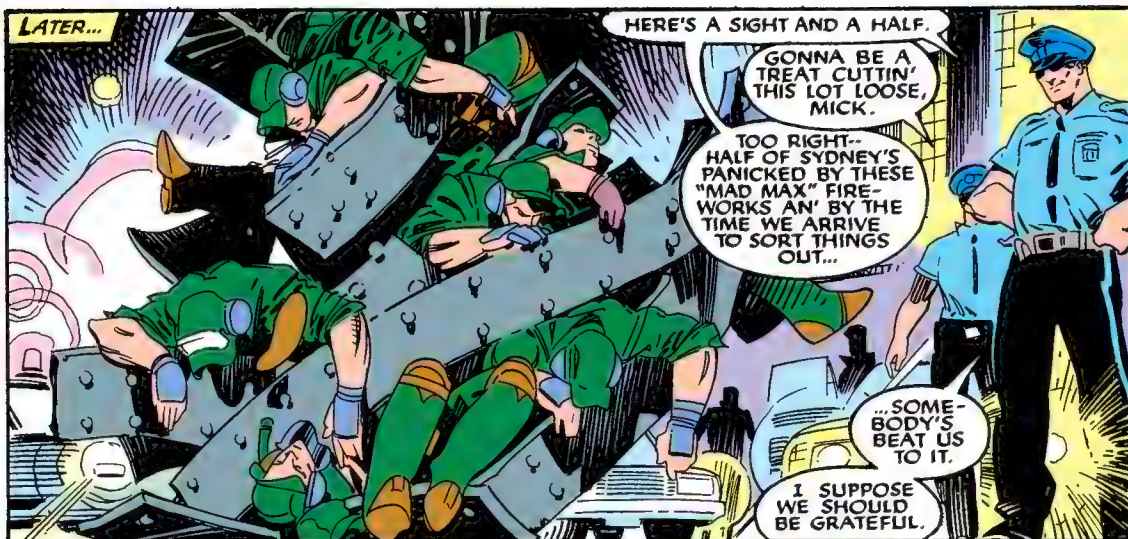
--LIKE HAVOK SAID, NICE BUNCH'A FELLAS.

LONGER THIS LASTS...

...THE GREATER DANGER OF THAT HAPPENING!







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THE UNCANNY



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COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

X-MEN®

Magistrates: 2
Mutants: 0

Silver: Green



STAN LEE
PRESENTS

BUSTING WOOLIE!

THIS IS THE
CITADEL--

--HEAD-
QUARTERS OF
GENOSHAN
STATE SECURITY.

STARRING THE
UNCANNY
X-MEN

ROGUE AND
WOLVERINE HAVE
JUST ARRIVED.

AS IS PLAIN TO SEE,
THEY ARE NOT TERRIBLY
PLEASED TO BE HERE.

CHRIS
CLAREMONT
WRITER

MARC
SILVESTRI
PENCILER

DAN
GREEN
INKER

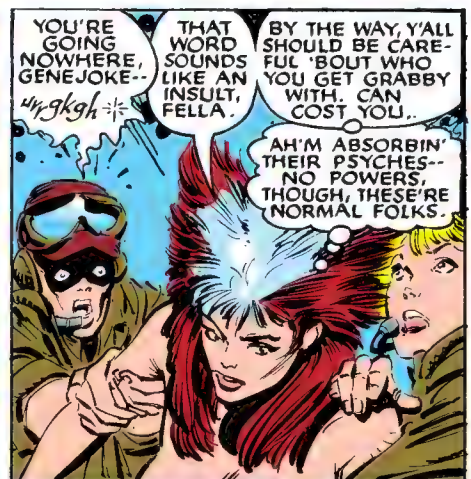
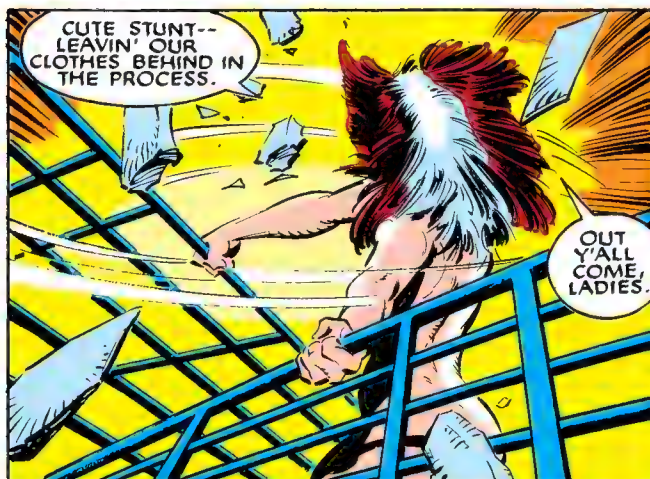
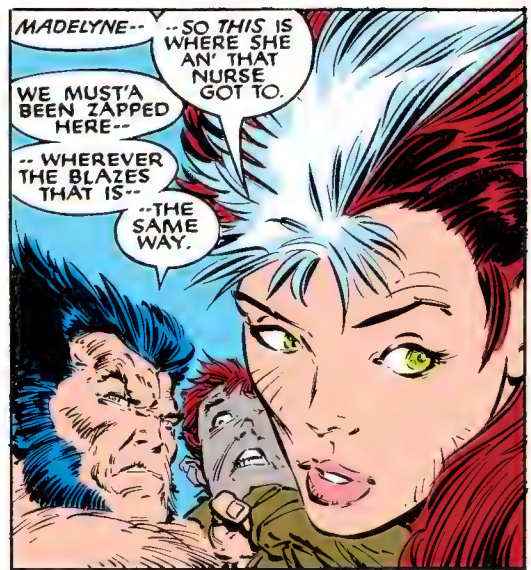
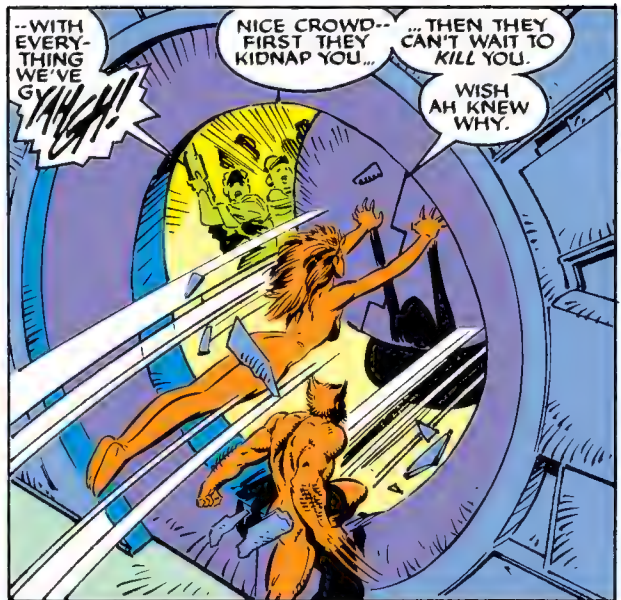
PETRA
SCOTese
COLORIST

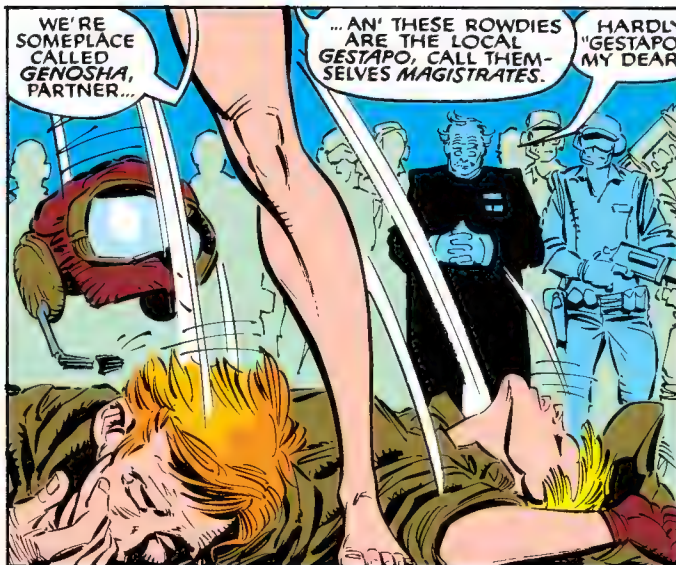
TOM
ORZECOWSKI
LETTERER

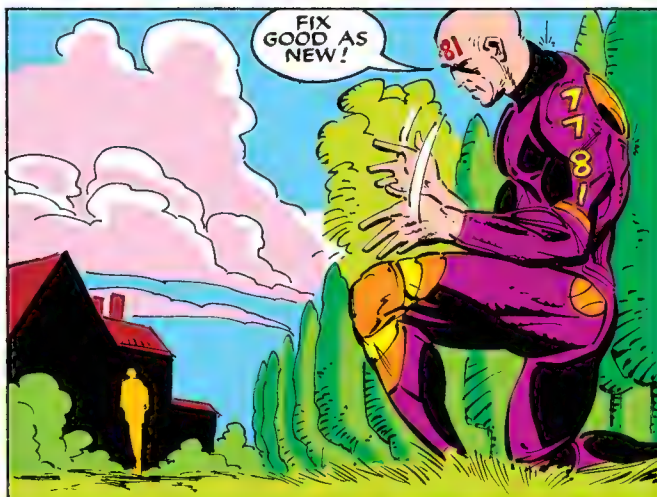
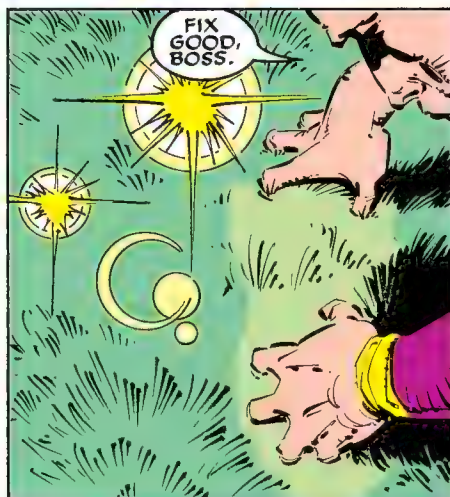
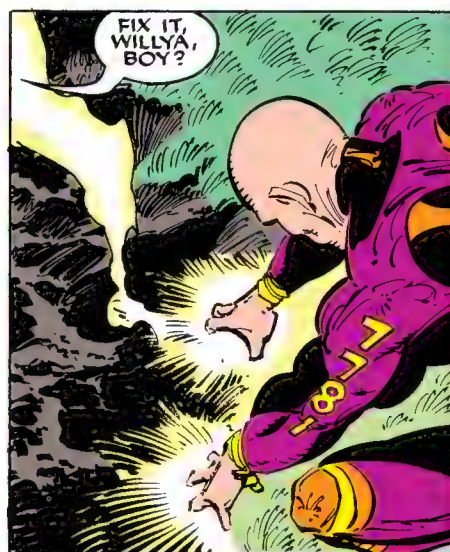
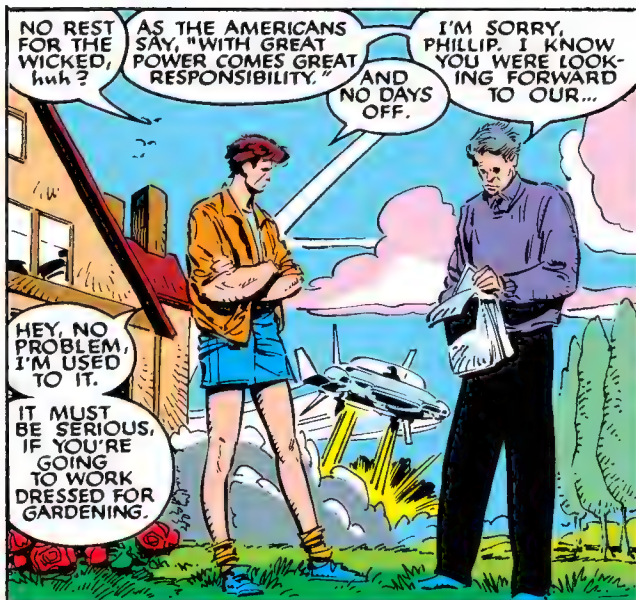
BOB
HARRAS
EDITOR

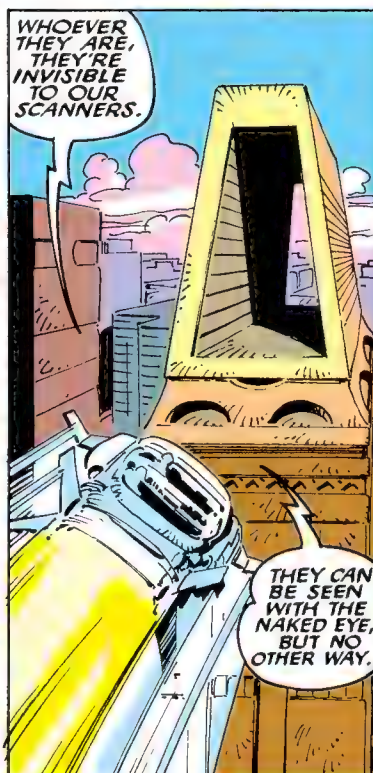
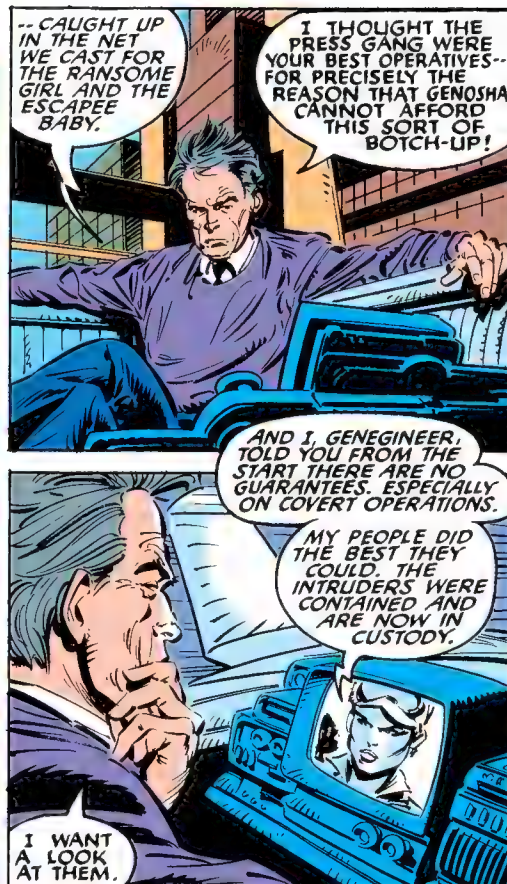
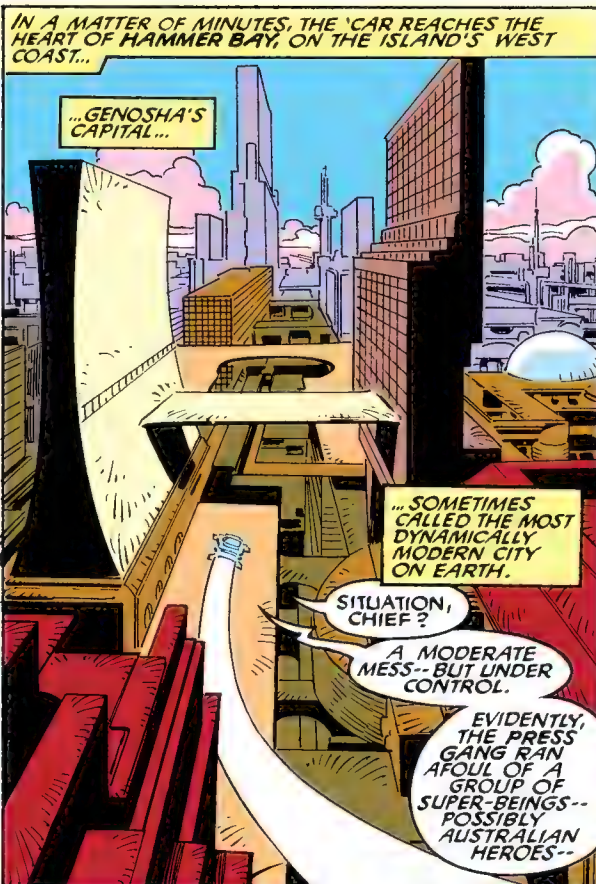
TOM
DeFALCO
MAGISTRATE













SO-- WHO THE DEVIL ARE THEY?

GOOD QUESTION. WE DON'T KNOW, WE HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO IDENTIFY THEM.



THEY'RE NOT IN OUR NATIVE COMPUTER NET AND EVERY TIME WE TRY TO INTERFACE WITH AN OVERSEAS DATA BASE-- PRIVATE, PUBLIC, GOVERNMENT, WIDE OPEN OR TOTALLY SECURED--

--WE GET A NULL RESPONSE.

THE COMPUTECHS THEORIZE A VIRUS PROGRAM IN OPERATION--



-- SO INCREDIBLY SOPHISTICATED, WE CAN'T EVEN BEGIN TO ISOLATE IT.

FURTHER, IT ERASES EVERY REFERENCE, NO MATTER HOW SLIGHT, TO OUR PRISONERS.



WORSE, THEY SUSPECT OUR INQUIRIES HAVE INFECTED OUR OWN SYSTEMS.

I DON'T LIKE THE SOUND OF THAT AT ALL.

NOR I.



CHIEF-- THAT GIRL-- WHAT'S WRONG WITH HER?!

SHE'S BEEN LIKE THAT EVER SINCE HER CAPTURE.

I'M AFRAID SOME OF MY OFFICERS TOOK A FEW LIBERTIES WHEN SHE WAS BEING PROCESSED.

WHAT THEY THOUGHT WAS FUN, SHE EVIDENTLY FELT WAS SOMETHING ELSE.



THOSE RESPONSIBLE HAVE BEEN DISCIPLINED. IT WON'T HAPPEN AGAIN.

IF IT DOES, CHIEF ANDERSON, YOU'LL ANSWER FOR IT.



I THOUGHT YOUR PEOPLE WERE PROFESSIONALS.

THEY'RE HUMAN. THEY'RE FALLIBLE.

HAWKSHAW'S FOLLOW-ON REPORTS INDICATE THESE TWO ARE PART OF A LARGER TEAM.

WHICH MEANS THEIR COMPANIONS MAY WELL BE LOOKING FOR THEM...

...AND EVENTUALLY BE COMING TO THEIR RESCUE.

MY STAFF VIEWS THAT AS A VIRTUAL CERTAINTY.

I UNDERSTAND SOME MAGISTRATES WERE CAPTURED BY AUSTRALIAN AUTHORITIES IN THAT ENGAGEMENT?

"THE PRESS GANG'S ALREADY WORKING, SIR..."

"...TO BRING THEM HOME."

SYDNEY-- CAPITAL OF NEW SOUTH WALES, ONE OF THE SEVEN STATES THAT COMPRISE THE AUSTRALIAN NATION--

--BARELY A DAY AFTER THE PITCHED BATTLE BETWEEN THE X-MEN AND THAT AFOREMENTIONED CADRE OF GENOSHAN MAGISTRATES.

LOTTA COPS ON DUTY, TONIGHT.

LOTS OF MESS, PUNCHOUT, FOR THEM TO CLEAN UP.

HEY, HAWKSHAW-- YOU SURE THIS IS THE RIGHT PLACE?

RELAX, PIPELINE--

"--HAVE I EVER LED YOU WRONG?"

DID YOU SEE THOSE OFFICERS, WHEN WE WERE PROCESSED--

--LOOKING AT US LIKE WE WERE CRIMINALS!

IN THEIR EYES, DEPUTY, WE ARE.

I DIDN'T BECOME A MAGISTRATE...

...TO ROT IN SOME FOREIGN JAIL, SIMPLY FOR DOING MY JOB--LOOK!

THE WALL!

THEY'RE THE MUTANTS WE FOUGHT!

AS USUAL, MY FRIENDS...

...GATEWAY HAS TELEPORTED US...

...PRECISELY WHERE WE NEED TO GO.

YOU HERE TO FINISH US OFF, GENEJOKE?

DO NOT TEMPT ME.

THAT WORD-- "GENEJOKE"--

I DO NOT LIKE IT.

MAKES US EVEN. I DON'T LIKE YOU!

GOOD. THAT WILL MAKE THIS MORE... PLEASANT.

I REQUIRE INFORMATION --ABOUT OUR MISSING FRIENDS.

I WON'T TALK!

YOU WILL NOT HAVE TO.

PSYLOCKE, HE IS YOURS.

STORM LEADS THE X-MEN. PSYLOCKE IS THE TEAM'S TELEPATH. THAT MEANS SHE READS MINDS.

WRENCH OF
DISLOCATION.

CASTING OF
SELF INTO
SHADOW,
DANCING
GAILY ON THE
EDGE OF AN
INFINITE ABYSS.

PSYCHIC
ARMOR WRAPPED
AS TIGHTLY
ABOUT HER
CONSCIOUSNESS

...AS ITS PHYSICAL
COUNTERPART...

...IS ABOUT
HER BODY.

THERE ARE
DEFENSES--

--EASILY
BYPASSED.

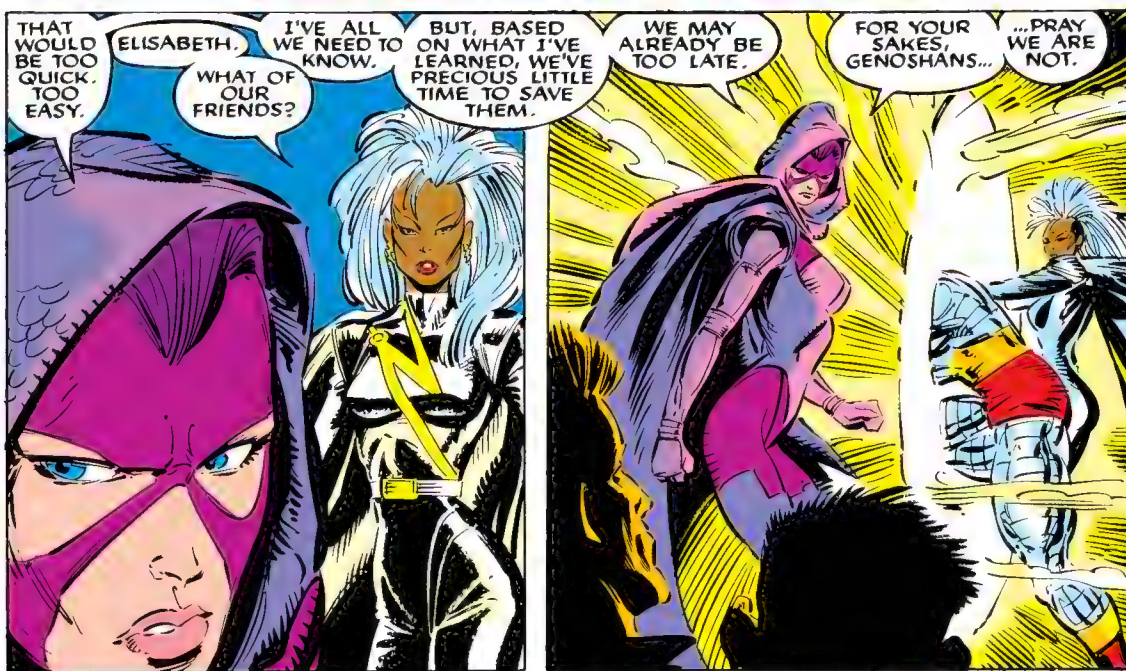
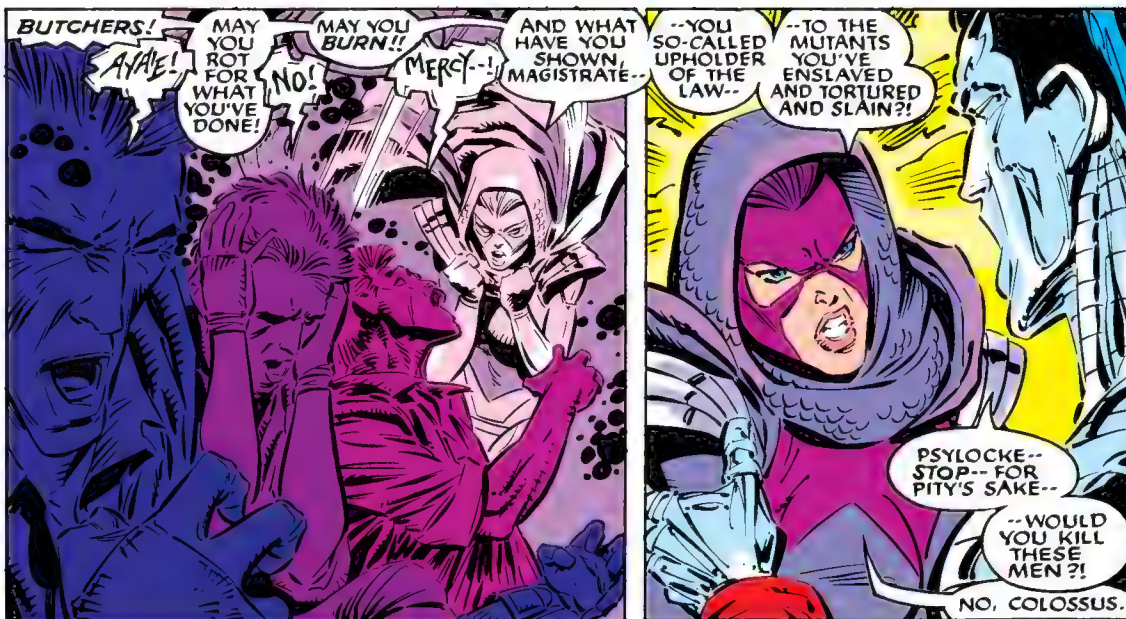
FEAR TRAVELING
HAND-IN-HAND
WITH WONDER...

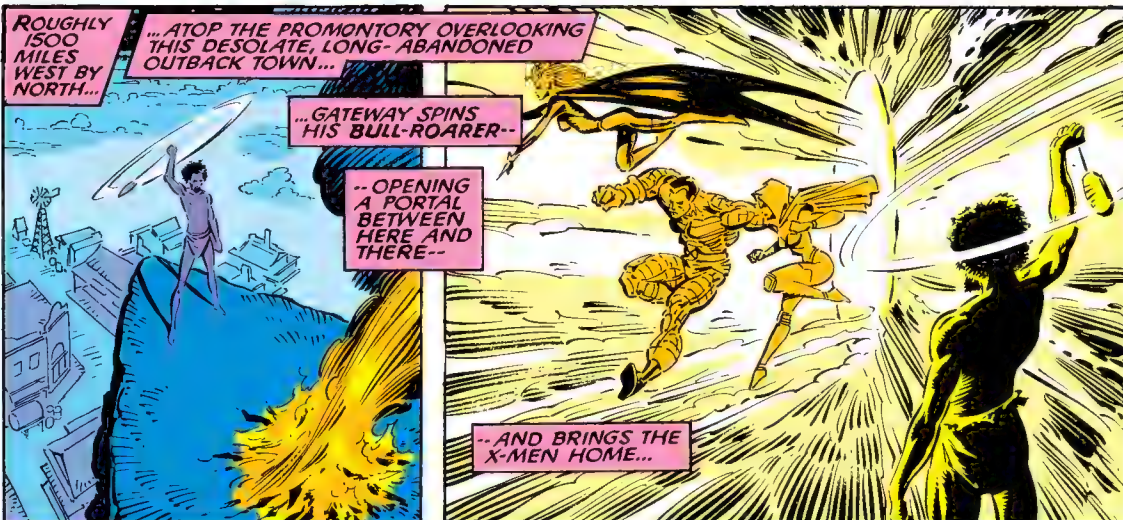
...AS SHE MARVELS AT
HER MUTANT ABILITY...

...TO TOUCH ANOTHER'S
INNERMOST BEING...

...WHILE SIMULTANEOUSLY
DREADING-- TO THE DEPTHS
OF HER SOUL--

--WHAT SHE'LL
FIND THERE.





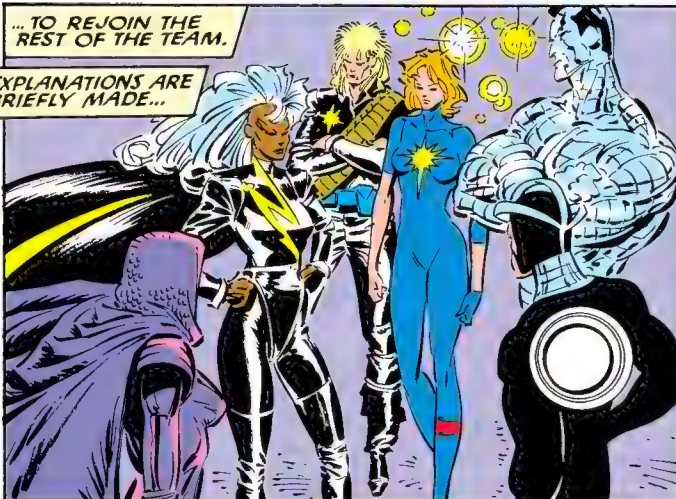
ROUGHLY 1500 MILES WEST BY NORTH...

...ATOP THE PROMONTORY OVERLOOKING THIS DESOLATE, LONG-ABANDONED OUTBACK TOWN...

...GATEWAY SPINS HIS BULL-ROARER--

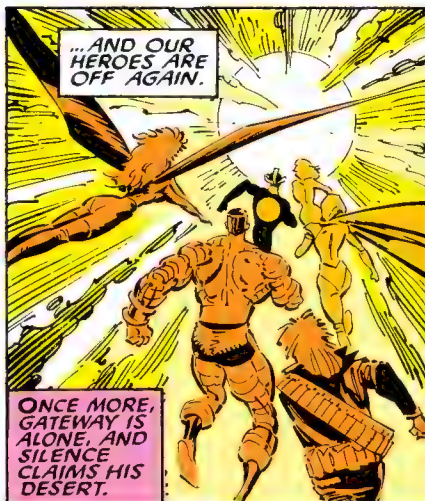
--OPENING A PORTAL BETWEEN HERE AND THERE--

--AND BRINGS THE X-MEN HOME...



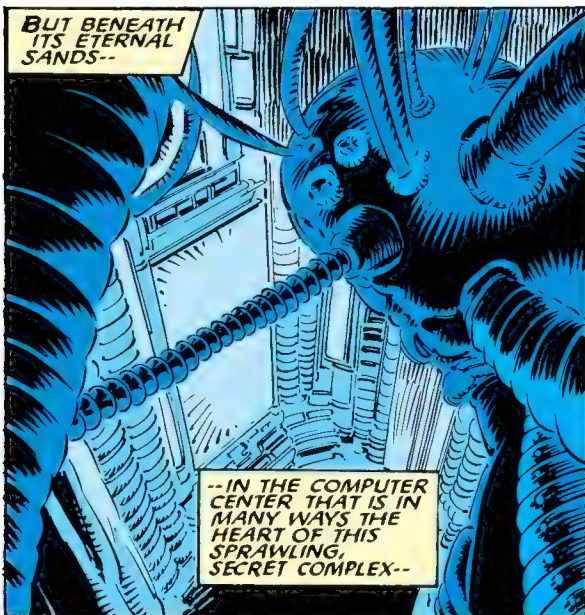
...TO REJOIN THE REST OF THE TEAM.

EXPLANATIONS ARE BRIEFLY MADE...



...AND OUR HEROES ARE OFF AGAIN.

ONCE MORE, GATEWAY IS ALONE, AND SILENCE CLAIMS HIS DESERT.



BUT BENEATH ITS ETERNAL SANDS--

--IN THE COMPUTER CENTER THAT IS IN MANY WAYS THE HEART OF THIS SPRAWLING, SECRET COMPLEX--



--THINGS ARE HAPPENING.

HELLO?

HELLO?!

I AM N'ASTIRH. S'YM TOLD ME TO GET IN TOUCH WITH YOU...

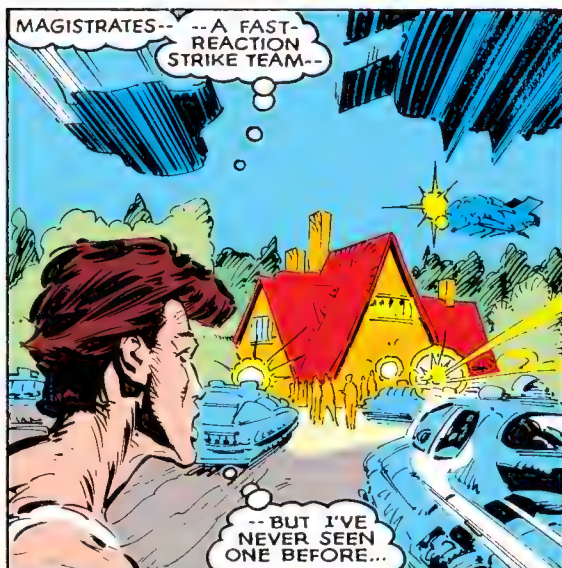


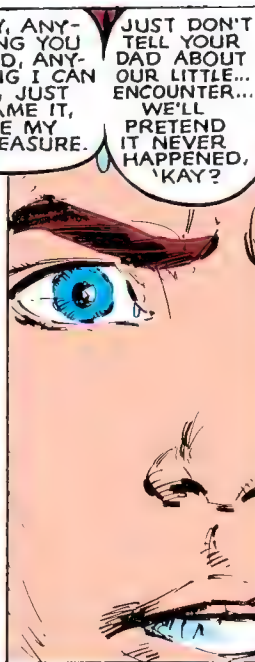
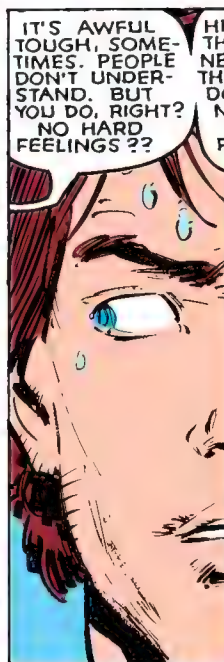
...REGARDING SOME "SPECIAL" MERCHANDISE YOU'RE INTERESTED IN.

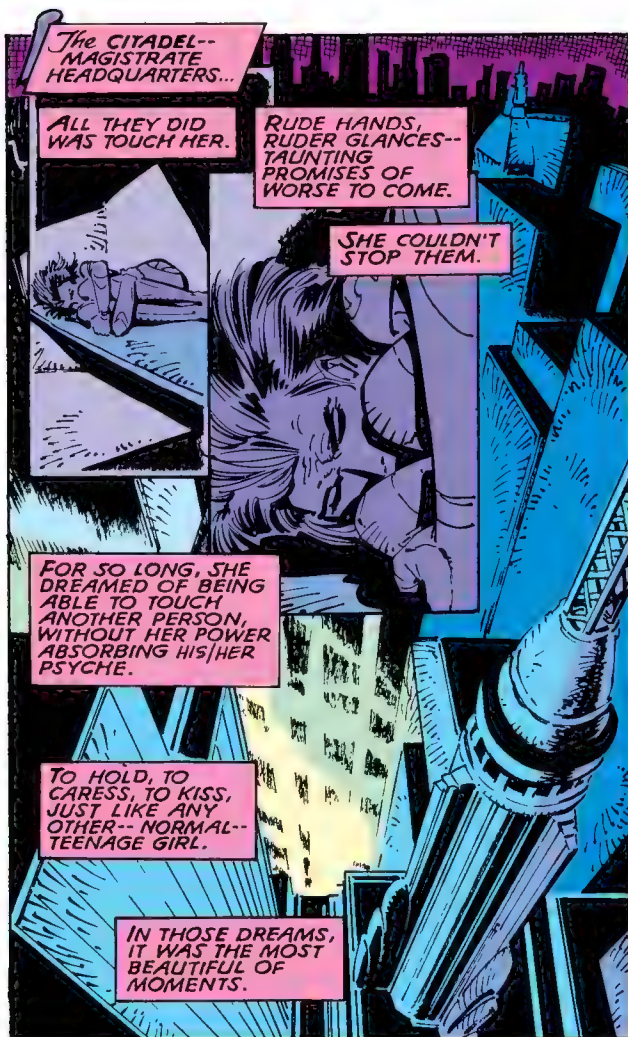
BUT SINCE YOU'RE NOT ABOUT...

...I'LL RING BACK LATER.

HAVE A NICE DAY.







The CITADEL--
MAGISTRATE
HEADQUARTERS...

ALL THEY DID
WAS TOUCH HER.

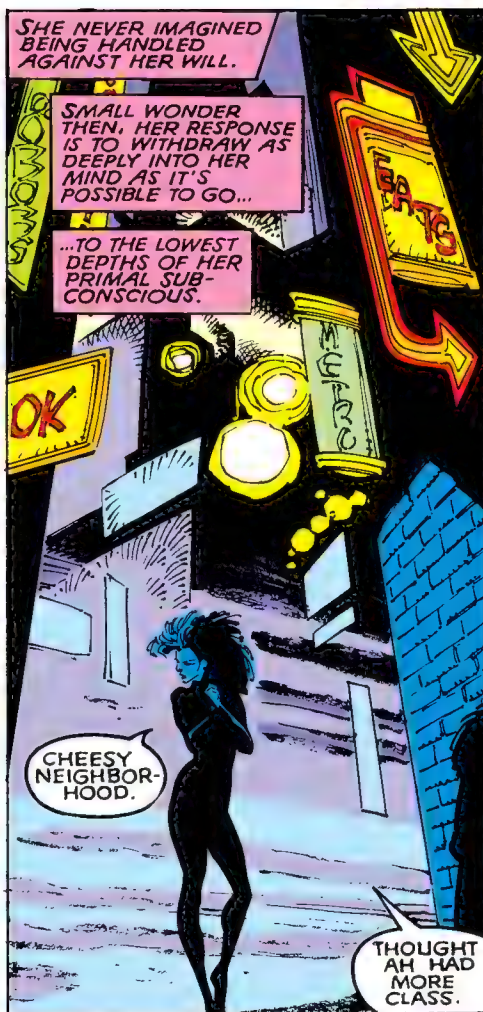
RUDE HANDS,
RUDER GLANCES--
TALTING
PROMISES OF
WORSE TO COME.

SHE COULDN'T
STOP THEM.

FOR SO LONG, SHE
DREAMED OF BEING
ABLE TO TOUCH
ANOTHER PERSON,
WITHOUT HER POWER
ABSORBING HIS/HER
PSYCHE.

TO HOLD, TO
CARESS, TO KISS,
JUST LIKE ANY
OTHER-- NORMAL--
TEENAGE GIRL.

IN THOSE DREAMS,
IT WAS THE MOST
BEAUTIFUL OF
MOMENTS.



SHE NEVER IMAGINED
BEING HANDLED
AGAINST HER WILL.

SMALL WONDER
THEN, HER RESPONSE
IS TO WITHDRAW AS
DEEPLY INTO HER
MIND AS IT'S
POSSIBLE TO GO...

...TO THE LOWEST
DEPTHS OF HER
PRIMAL SUB-
CONSCIOUS.

CHEESY NEIGH-
BOOD.

THOUGHT
AM HAD
MORE
CLASS.



SWEET NORN, SEE WHO'S
COME TO VISIT!

REMEMBER
US, DEARIE?

ALL THE
PEOPLE AM EVER
ABSORBED--

--BUT THAT
EFFECT IS ONLY
TEMPORARY--

--HOW CAN
Y'ALL STILL
BE INSIDE
MY HEAD?!

STOLEN
POWERS AND
MEMORIES
FADE,
LIEBCHEN...

...BUT
THERE'S
A PSYCHIC
RESIDUE--



--SORT'A LIKE
SCAR TISSUE--

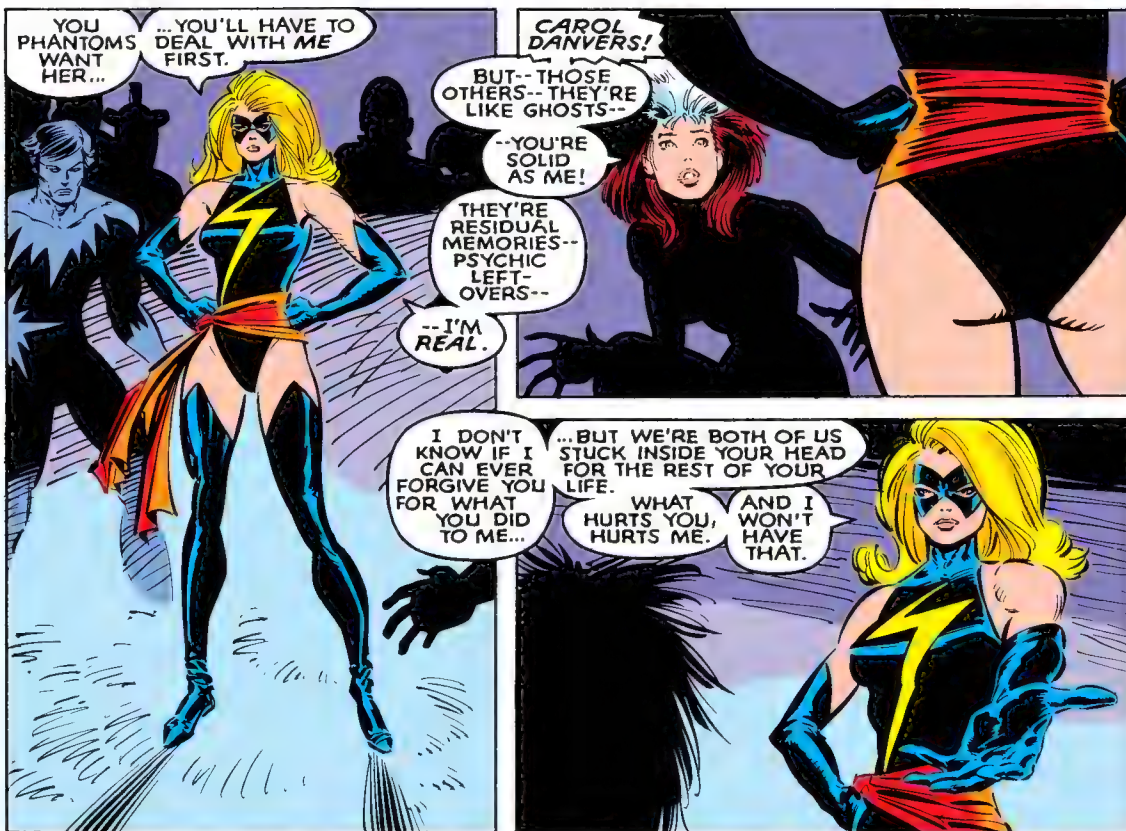
--THAT
YOU'LL
NEVER BE
RID OF!

WE'RE ALL
A PART OF
YOU, GENE-
JOKE!

NO!

AND NOW THOU
HAST LOST THY
POWERS AND BE-
COME VULNERABLE...

...WE CAN'T
WAIT TO
TEAR YOU
TO BITS!



YOU PHANTOMS WANT HER...

...YOU'LL HAVE TO DEAL WITH ME FIRST.

CAROL DANVERS!

BUT-- THOSE OTHERS-- THEY'RE LIKE GHOSTS--

--YOU'RE SOLID AS ME!

THEY'RE RESIDUAL MEMORIES-- PSYCHIC LEFT-OVERS--

--I'M REAL.

I DON'T KNOW IF I CAN EVER FORGIVE YOU FOR WHAT YOU DID TO ME...

...BUT WE'RE BOTH OF US STUCK INSIDE YOUR HEAD FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE.

WHAT HURTS YOU, HURTS ME.

AND I WON'T HAVE THAT.

ESPECIALLY WITH WOLVERINE IN DANGER AS WELL.

I CAN HELP, ROGUE-- THIS IS MY KIND OF CAPER-- IF YOU'LL LET ME.

YOU WANT TO TAKE OVER.

I HAVE TO.

I'D BE WITHIN MY RIGHTS.

YOU STOLE ME-- POWERS, MEMORIES, PERSONALITY-- PERMANENTLY FROM MY RIGHTFUL BODY, AS MUCH AS MURDERED ME! WHY SHOULDN'T I TAKE CONTROL OF YOURS?

AH DIDN'T MEAN TO!

IT WAS AN ACCIDENT!

I ONLY MEANT IT TO BE TEMPORARY, LIKE THE OTHERS--

--BUT THINGS GOT OUTTA HAND...

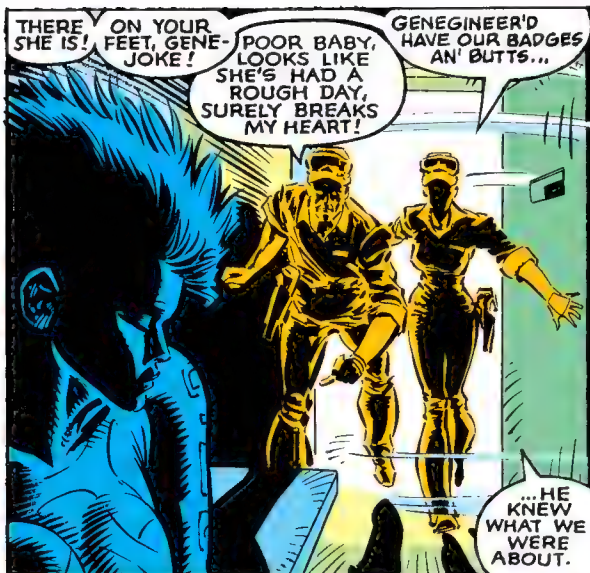
...YOU FOUGHT TOO HARD!

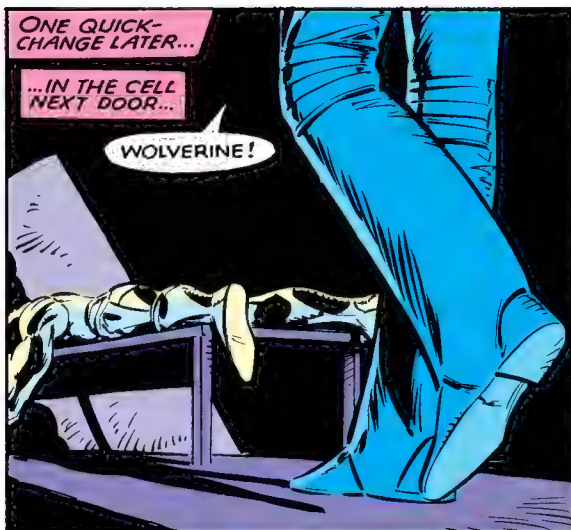
I WAS FIGHTING FOR MY LIFE.

THERE'S NO OTHER WAY, ROGUE.

AN' AFTERWARDS, WHAT'S TO PREVENT YOU STAYIN' IN CHARGE?

YOU'LL HAVE TO TRUST ME.





ONE QUICK-
CHANGE LATER...

...IN THE CELL
NEXT DOOR...

WOLVERINE!



UP AN' AT 'EM,
WILDBOY!

?

!

LOGAN?!



I THOUGHT HE
WAS SHAMMING...

...PLAYING
"POSSUM"
AS I DID.

BUT
HE'S
REALLY
OUT!

LOGAN!



NOW
THERE'S A
VOICE...

...I NEVER
FIGURED
TO HEAR
AGAIN.

YOU
TOP
PSYCHE,
CAROL...

...IN THE
KID'S
SKULL?



SEEMED
LIKE A
BRILLIANT
IDEA AT
THE TIME.

YOU LOOK
AWFUL, CHUM.

I FEEL WORSE.

SOON
AS WE'RE CLEAR
OF THIS DUMP, I'LL
GET YOU SOME HELP.
YOU'LL BE FINE.

YOU'RE
LYIN'! BUT I
APPRECIATE
THE
THOUGHT.

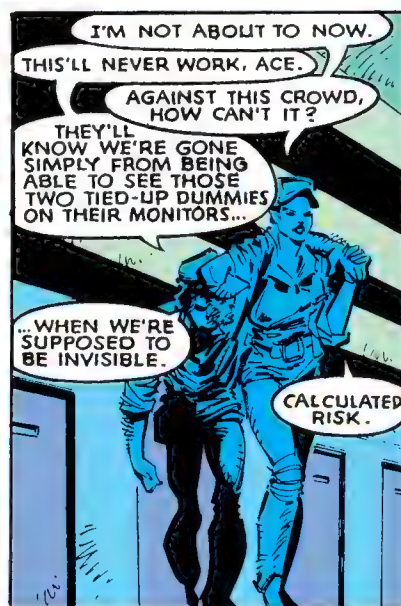
LEAVE ME,
CAROL. I'M IN
NO SHAPE TO
TRAVEL. I'LL
ONLY SLOW
YOU DOWN.

AS I
RECALL...



...I SAID MUCH THE
SAME, THE NIGHT
YOU RESCUED ME
FROM THE KGB.

YOU DIDN'T
LISTEN THEN.



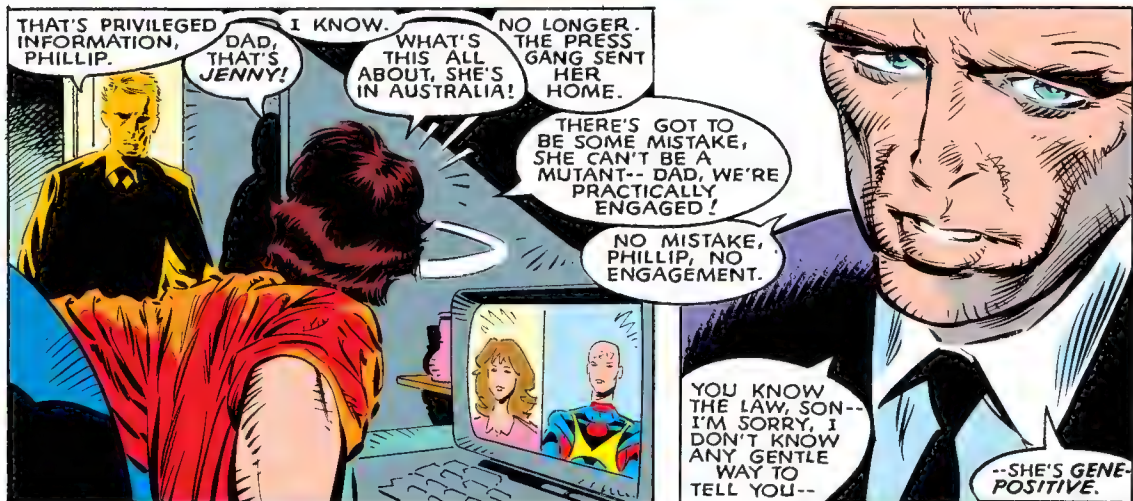
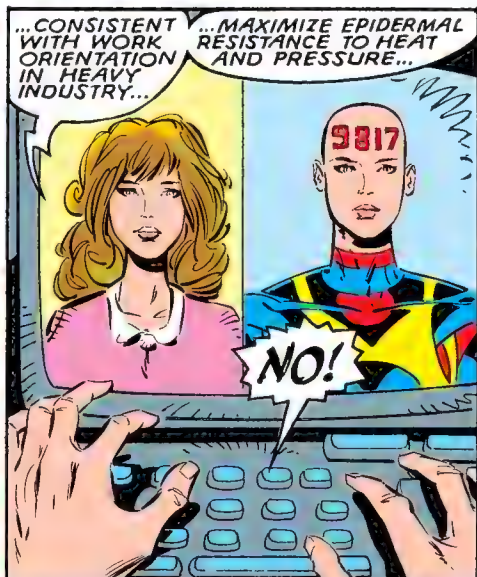
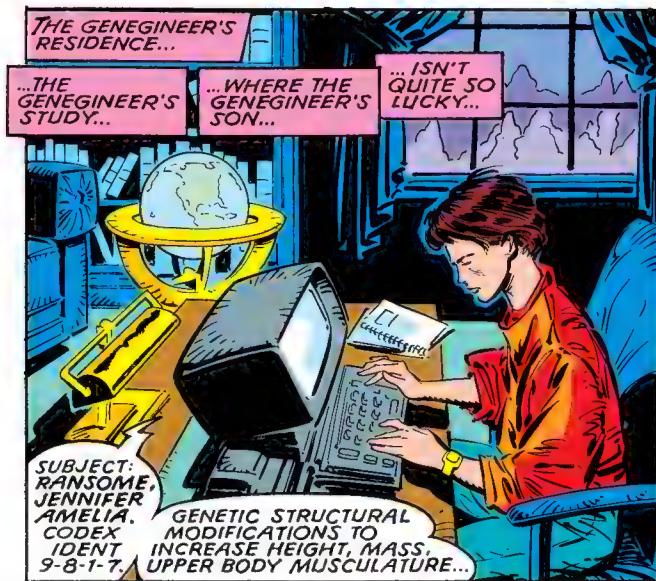
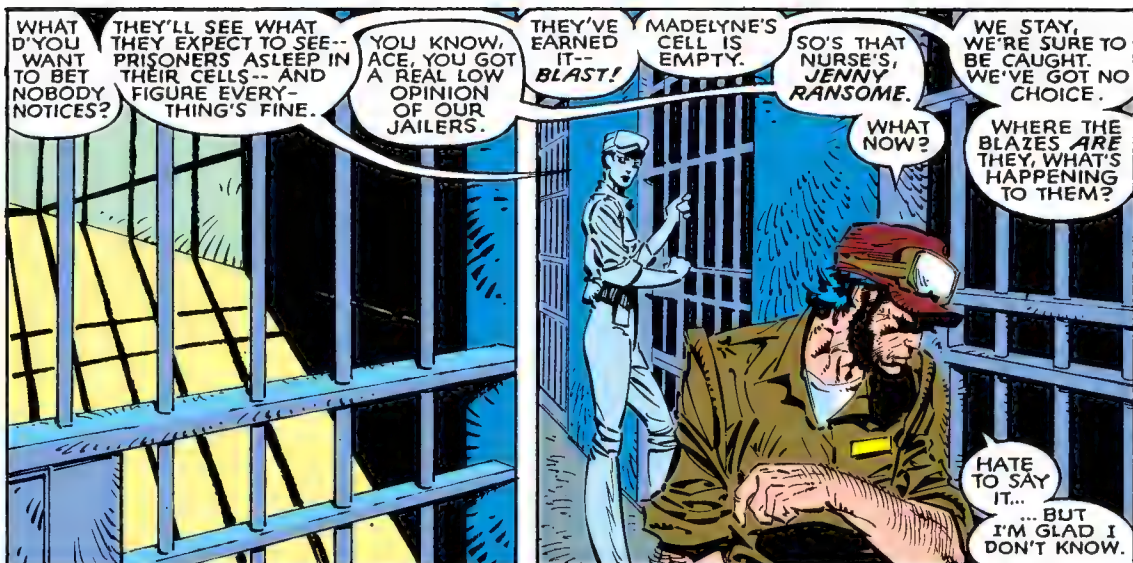
I'M NOT ABOUT TO NOW.
THIS'LL NEVER WORK, ACE.

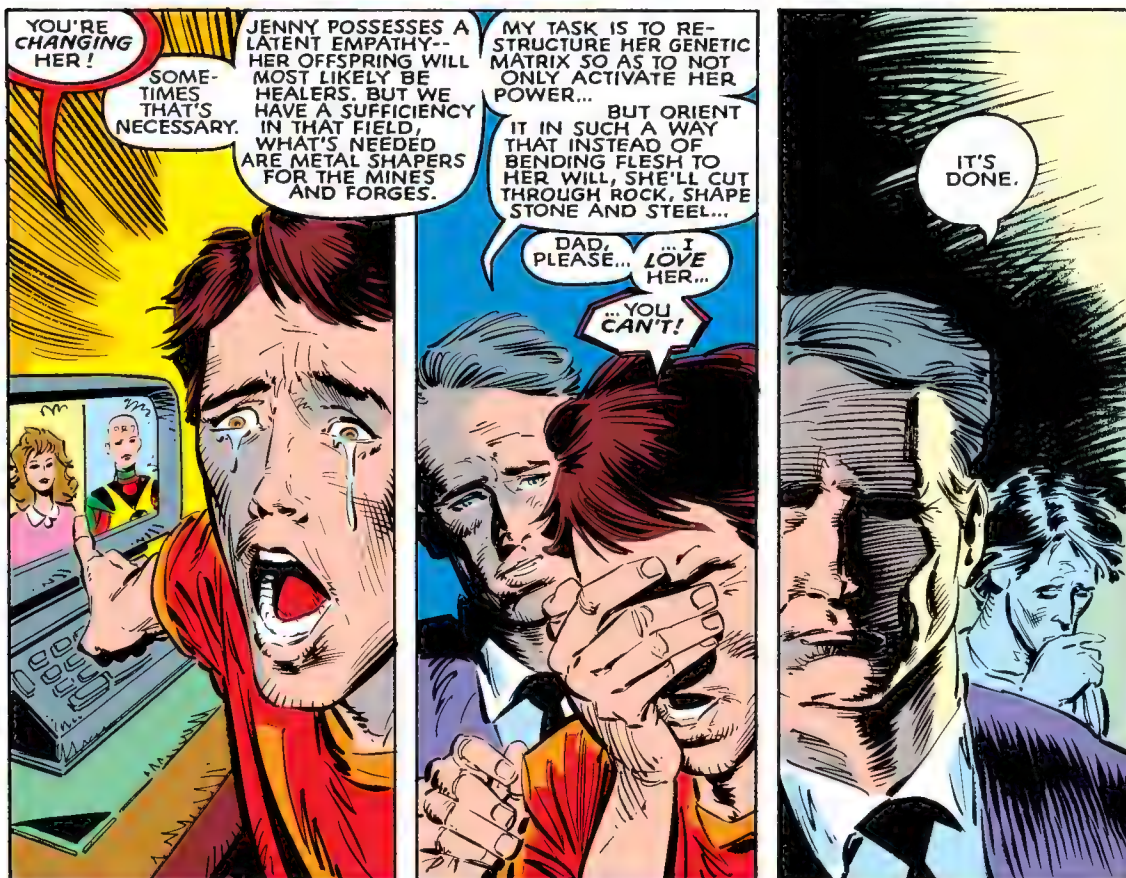
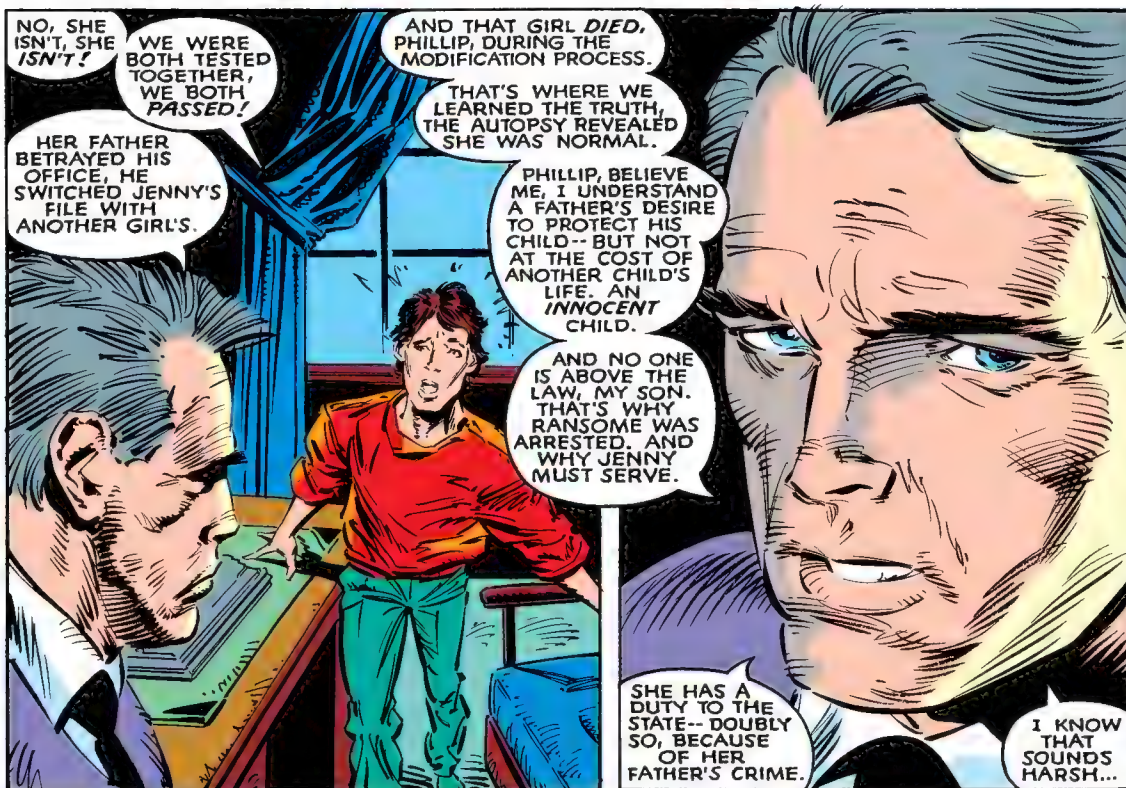
AGAINST THIS CROWD,
HOW CAN'T IT?

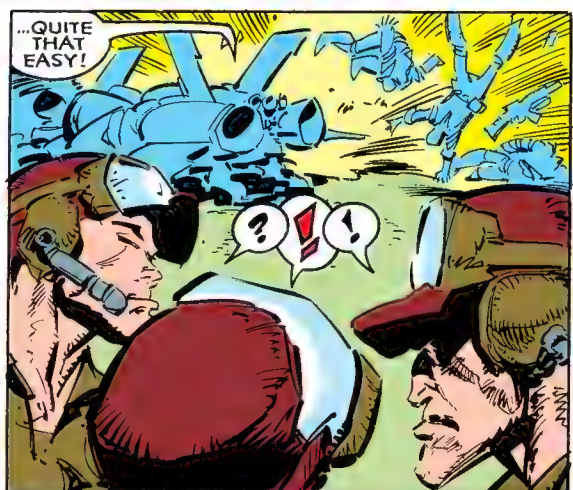
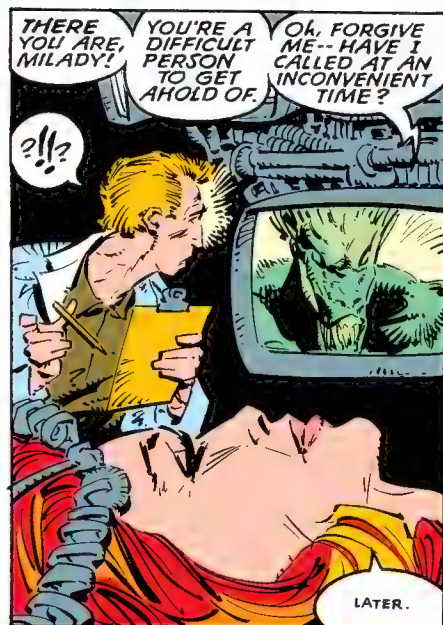
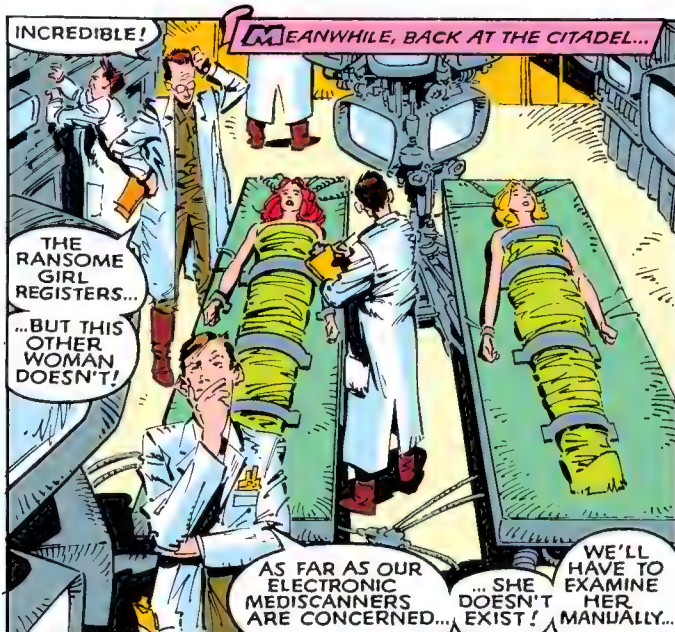
THEY'LL
KNOW WE'RE GONE
SIMPLY FROM BEING
ABLE TO SEE THOSE
TWO TIED-UP DUMMIES
ON THEIR MONITORS...

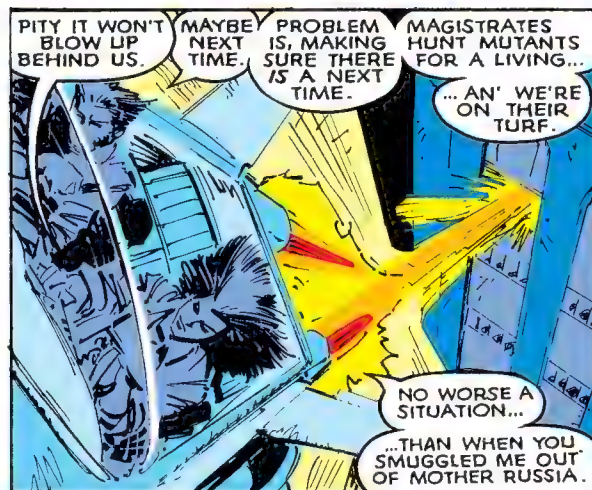
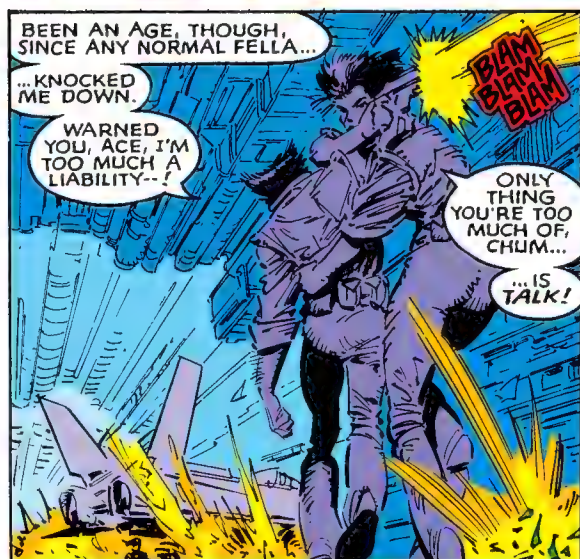
...WHEN WE'RE
SUPPOSED TO
BE INVISIBLE.

CALCULATED
RISK.



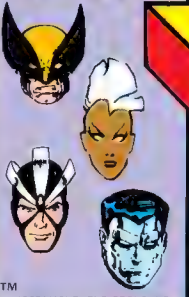






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COMICS
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X-MEN®



ALL ABOARD THE
MUTANT TRAIN

68-01-9 CINDY A. MORRIS

STAN LEE
PRESENTS

WHO'S HUMAN?

STARRING
THE UNCANNY
X-MEN

*The INDIAN OCEAN--
EAST OF AFRICA,
JUST NORTH OF THE
SEYCHELLES ISLANDS...*

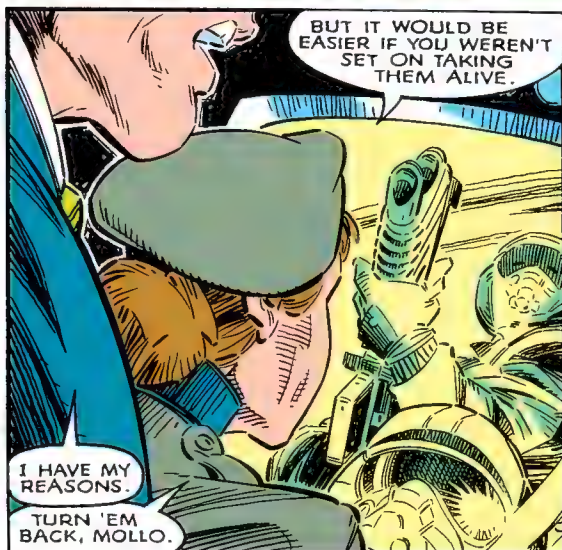
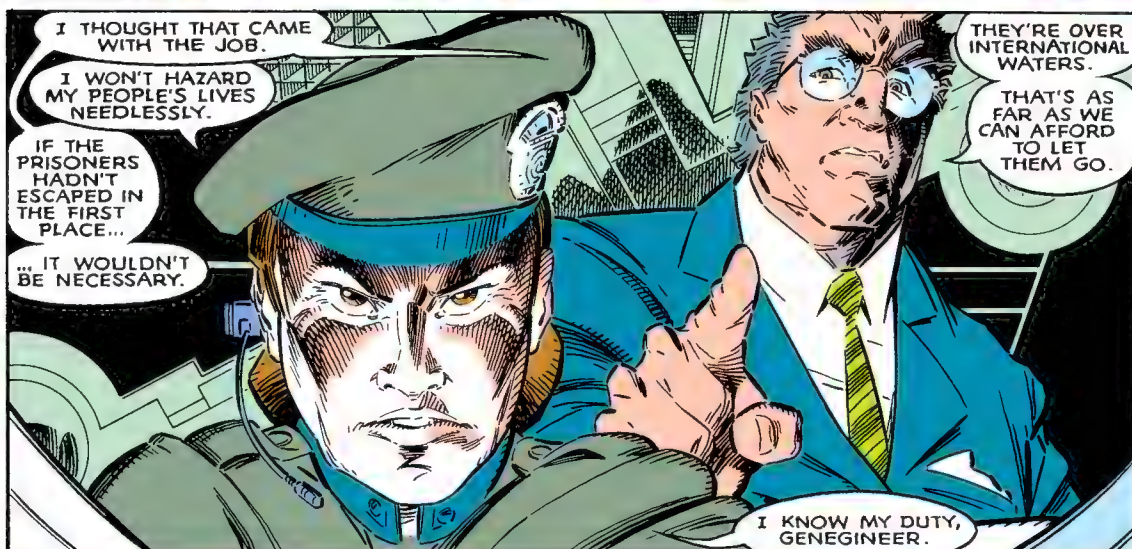
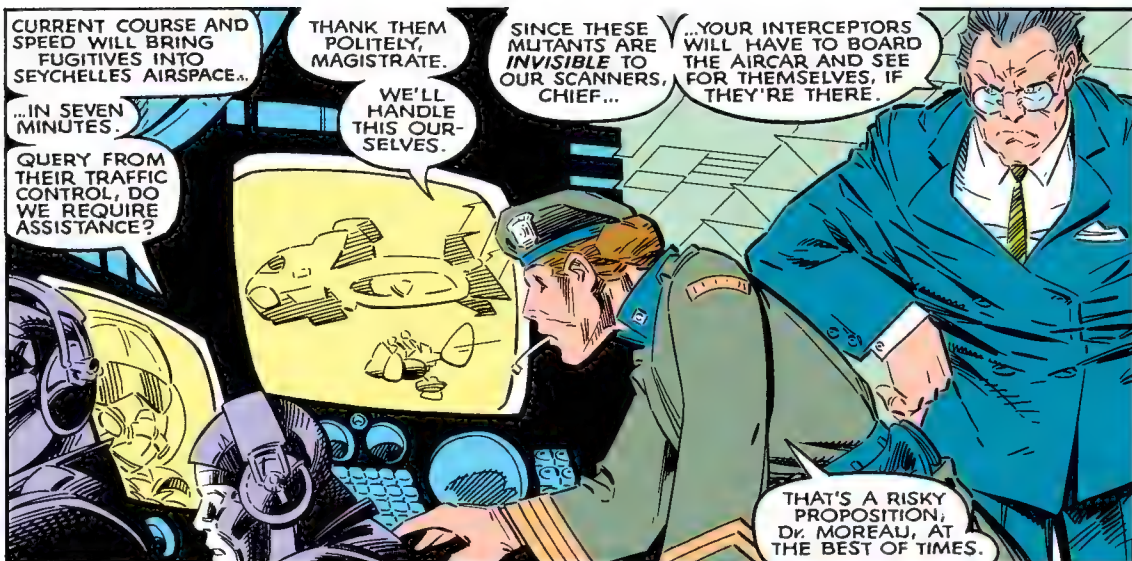
MAGISTRATE
COMMAND
FROM
AIR-ONE--

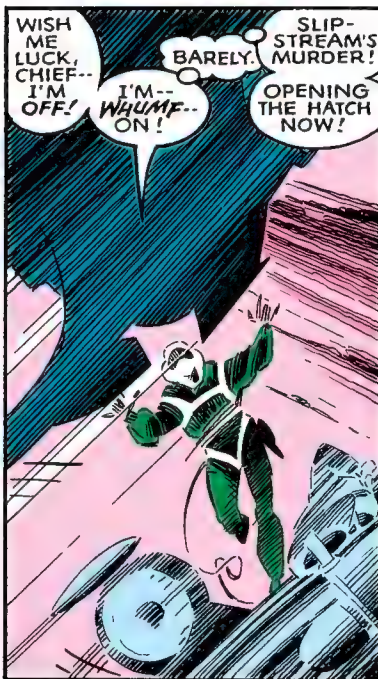
--FUGITIVES
REFUSE TO
ANSWER
OUR HAILS...

CHRIS CLAREMONT, WRITER
RICK LEONARDI, PENCILER
TERRY AUSTIN, INKER
TOM ORZECZOWSKI, LETTERER
GLYNIS OLIVER, COLORIST
BOB HARRAS, EDITOR
TOM DEFALCO, EDITOR IN CHIEF

... AND
ACCORDING
TO OUR
SENSORS...

...THEIR
VEHICLE IS
EMPTY!





WISH ME LUCK, CHIEF-- I'M OFF!

I'M-- WHUMF-- ON!

BARELY.

SLIP-STREAM'S MURDER! OPENING THE HATCH NOW!



ARE THEY ARMED? WILL THEY SHOOT?? CAN'T DRAW MY OWN GUN--

--NEED BOTH HANDS...

...JUST TO KEEP



Holy--!?!?



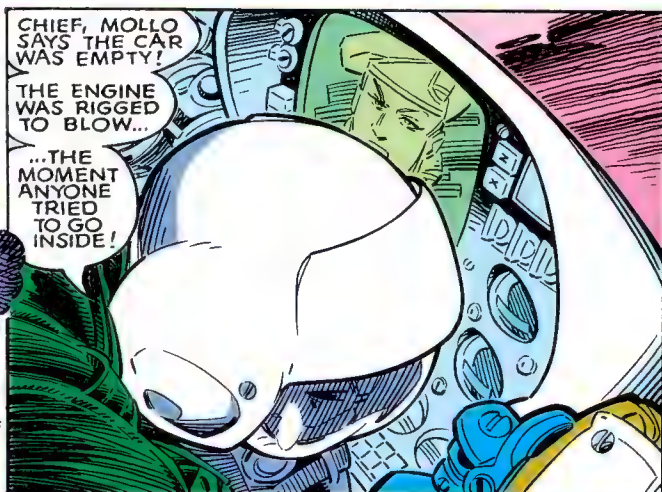
RELAX, MOLLO, I GOTCHA, I GOTCHA!

DeKOONING, TAKE UP POSITION BELOW...

...IN CASE HIS SAFETY LINE BREAKS!

HOLY MOTHER, THAT WAS CLOSE!

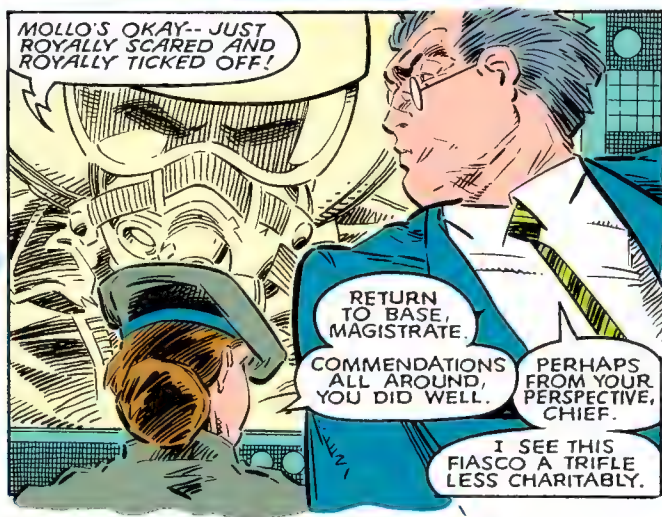
NO FOOLIN'! CHOLLY, RELAY THIS--!



CHIEF, MOLLO SAYS 'THE CAR WAS EMPTY!'

THE ENGINE WAS RIGGED TO BLOW...

...THE MOMENT ANYONE TRIED TO GO INSIDE!



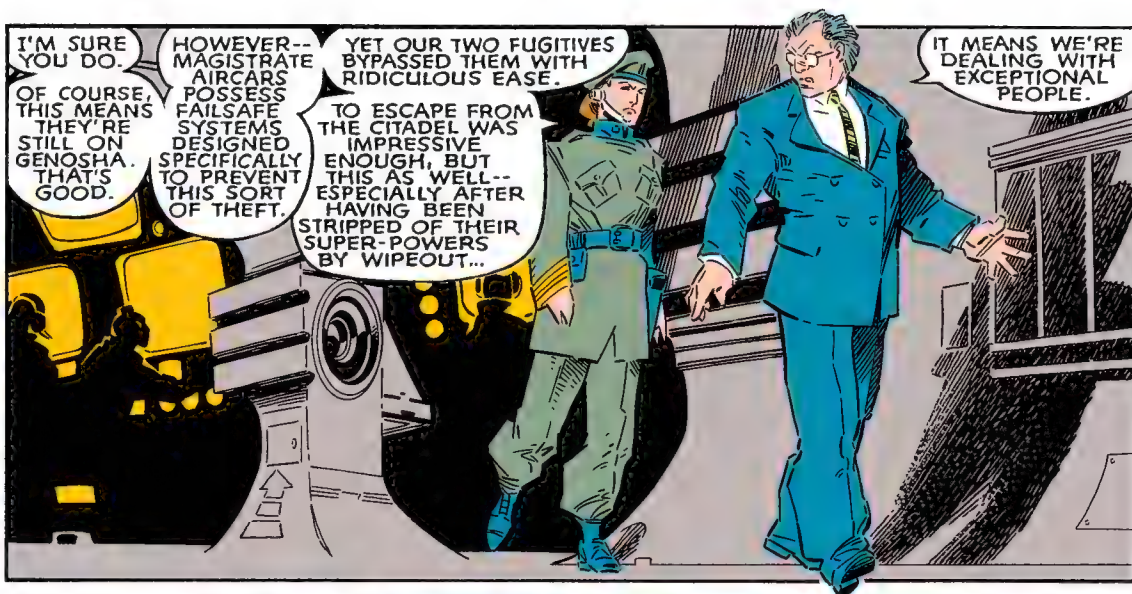
MOLLO'S OKAY-- JUST ROYALLY SCARED AND ROYALLY TICKED OFF!

RETURN TO BASE, MAGISTRATE.

COMMENDATIONS ALL AROUND, YOU DID WELL.

PERHAPS FROM YOUR PERSPECTIVE, CHIEF.

I SEE THIS FIASCO A TRIFLE LESS CHARITABLY.



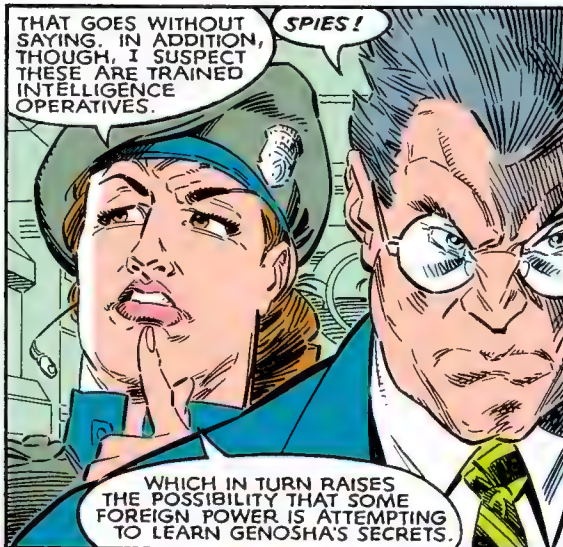
I'M SURE YOU DO. OF COURSE, THIS MEANS THEY'RE STILL ON GENOSHA. THAT'S GOOD.

HOWEVER--MAGISTRATE AIRCARS POSSESS FAILSAFE SYSTEMS DESIGNED SPECIFICALLY TO PREVENT THIS SORT OF THEFT.

YET OUR TWO FUGITIVES BYPASSED THEM WITH RIDICULOUS EASE.

TO ESCAPE FROM THE CITADEL WAS IMPRESSIVE ENOUGH, BUT THIS AS WELL-- ESPECIALLY AFTER HAVING BEEN STRIPPED OF THEIR SUPER-POWERS BY WIPEOUT...

IT MEANS WE'RE DEALING WITH EXCEPTIONAL PEOPLE.



THAT GOES WITHOUT SAYING. IN ADDITION, THOUGH, I SUSPECT THESE ARE TRAINED INTELLIGENCE OPERATIVES.

SPIES!

WHICH IN TURN RAISES THE POSSIBILITY THAT SOME FOREIGN POWER IS ATTEMPTING TO LEARN GENOSHA'S SECRETS.

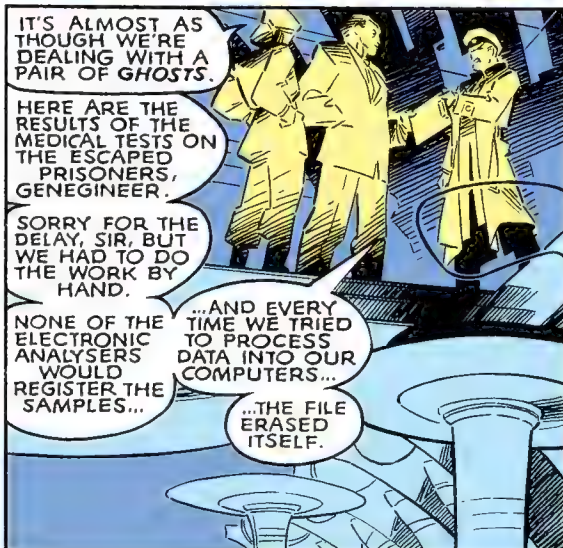


THAT MAKES IT ALL THE MORE IMPERATIVE, CHIEF MAGISTRATE...

...THAT WE FIND THE FUGITIVES.

WE NEED TO LEARN WHO THEY ARE, WHERE THEY'RE FROM...

...AND, MOST IMPORTANT, WHY THEY CAN'T BE SCANNED OR MONITORED!



IT'S ALMOST AS THOUGH WE'RE DEALING WITH A PAIR OF GHOSTS.

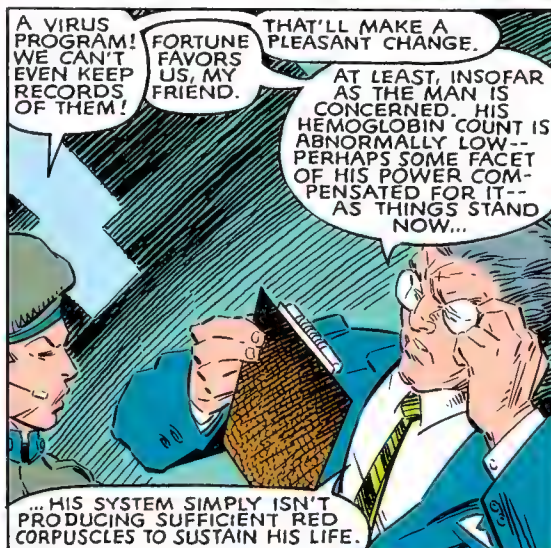
HERE ARE THE RESULTS OF THE MEDICAL TESTS ON THE ESCAPED PRISONERS, GENENGINEER.

SORRY FOR THE DELAY, SIR, BUT WE HAD TO DO THE WORK BY HAND.

NONE OF THE ELECTRONIC ANALYSERS WOULD REGISTER THE SAMPLES...

...AND EVERY TIME WE TRIED TO PROCESS DATA INTO OUR COMPUTERS...

...THE FILE ERASED ITSELF.



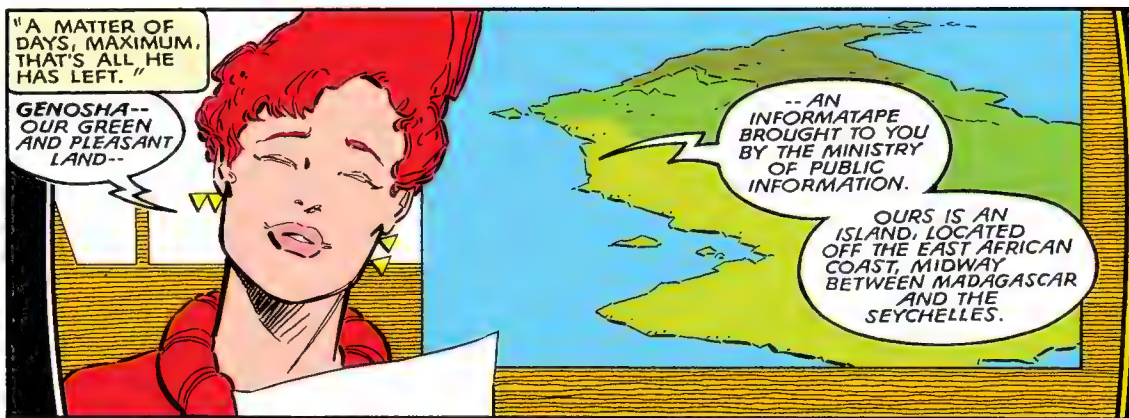
A VIRUS PROGRAM! WE CAN'T EVEN KEEP RECORDS OF THEM!

FORTUNE FAVORS US, MY FRIEND.

THAT'LL MAKE A PLEASANT CHANGE.

AT LEAST, INsofar AS THE MAN IS CONCERNED. HIS HEMOGLOBIN COUNT IS ABNORMALLY LOW-- PERHAPS SOME FACET OF HIS POWER COMPENSATED FOR IT-- AS THINGS STAND NOW...

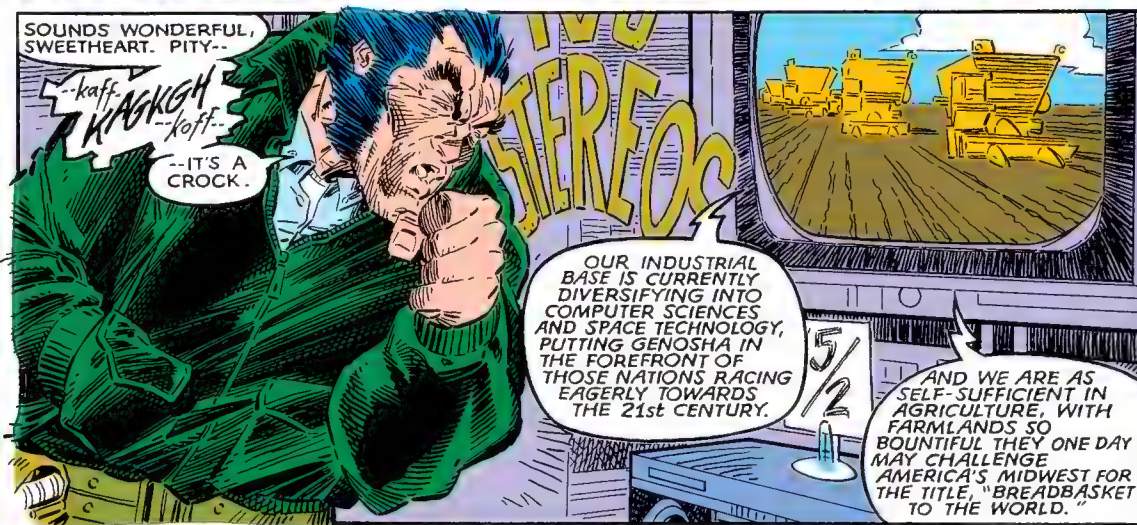
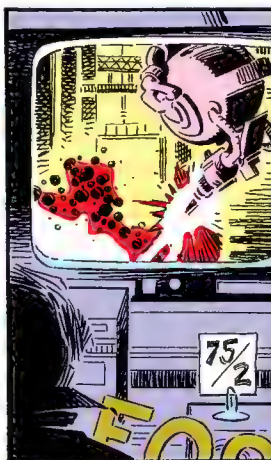
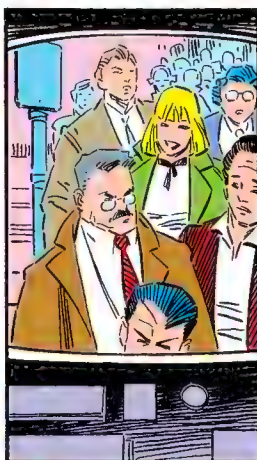
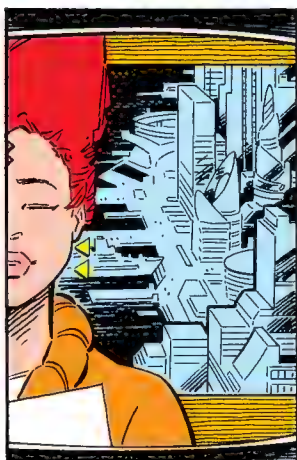
...HIS SYSTEM SIMPLY ISN'T PRODUCING SUFFICIENT RED CORPUSCLES TO SUSTAIN HIS LIFE.

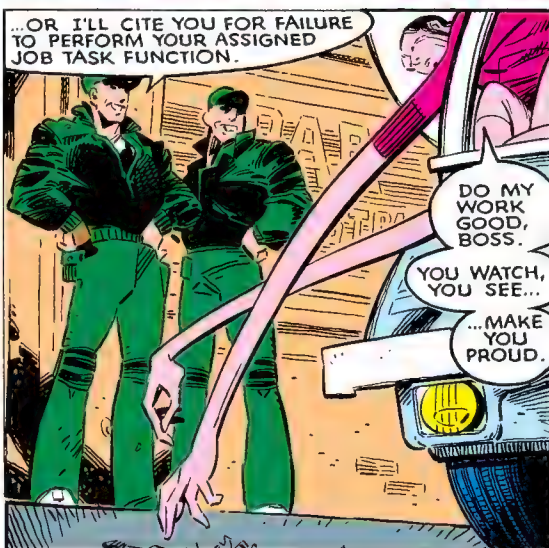
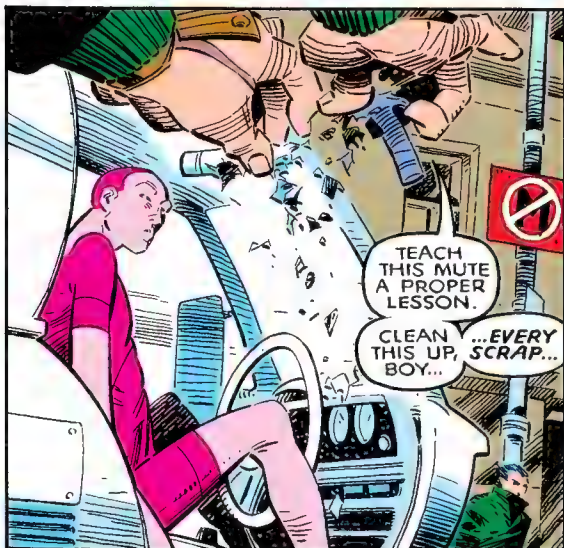
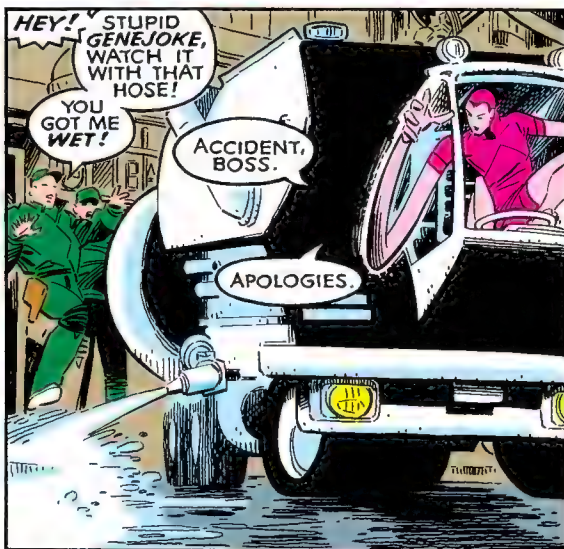
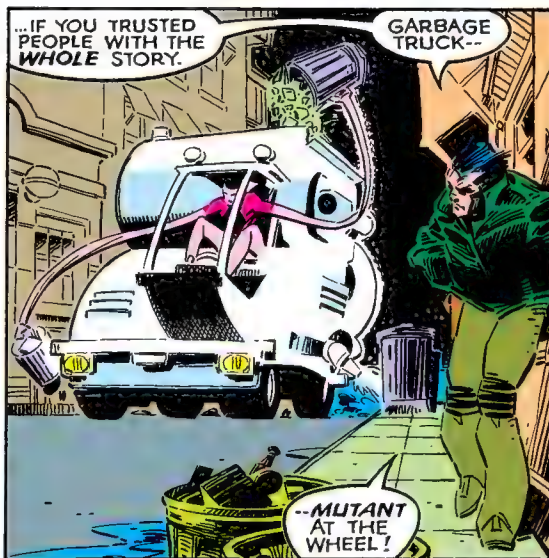
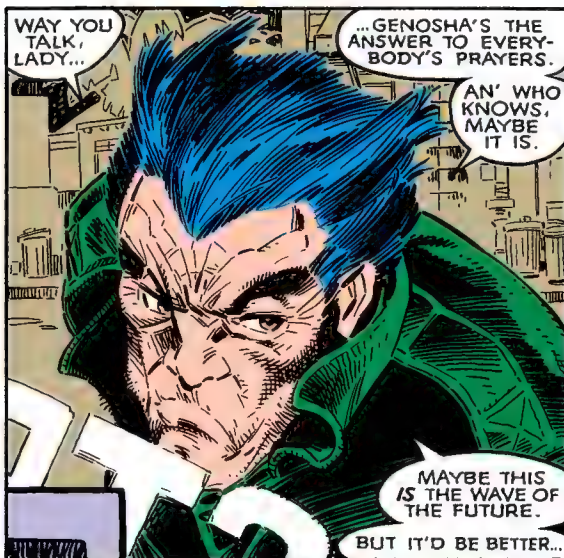


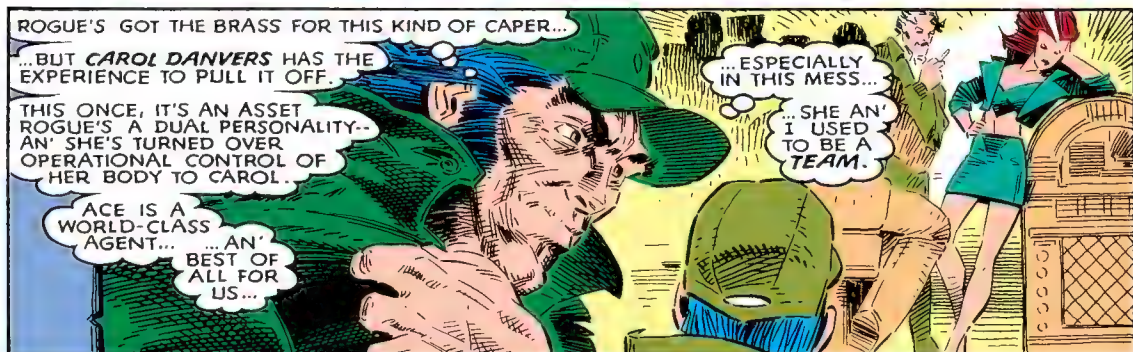
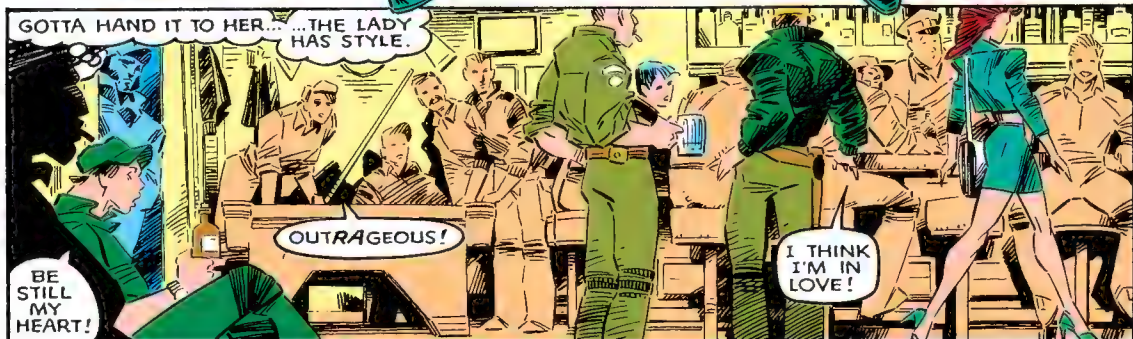
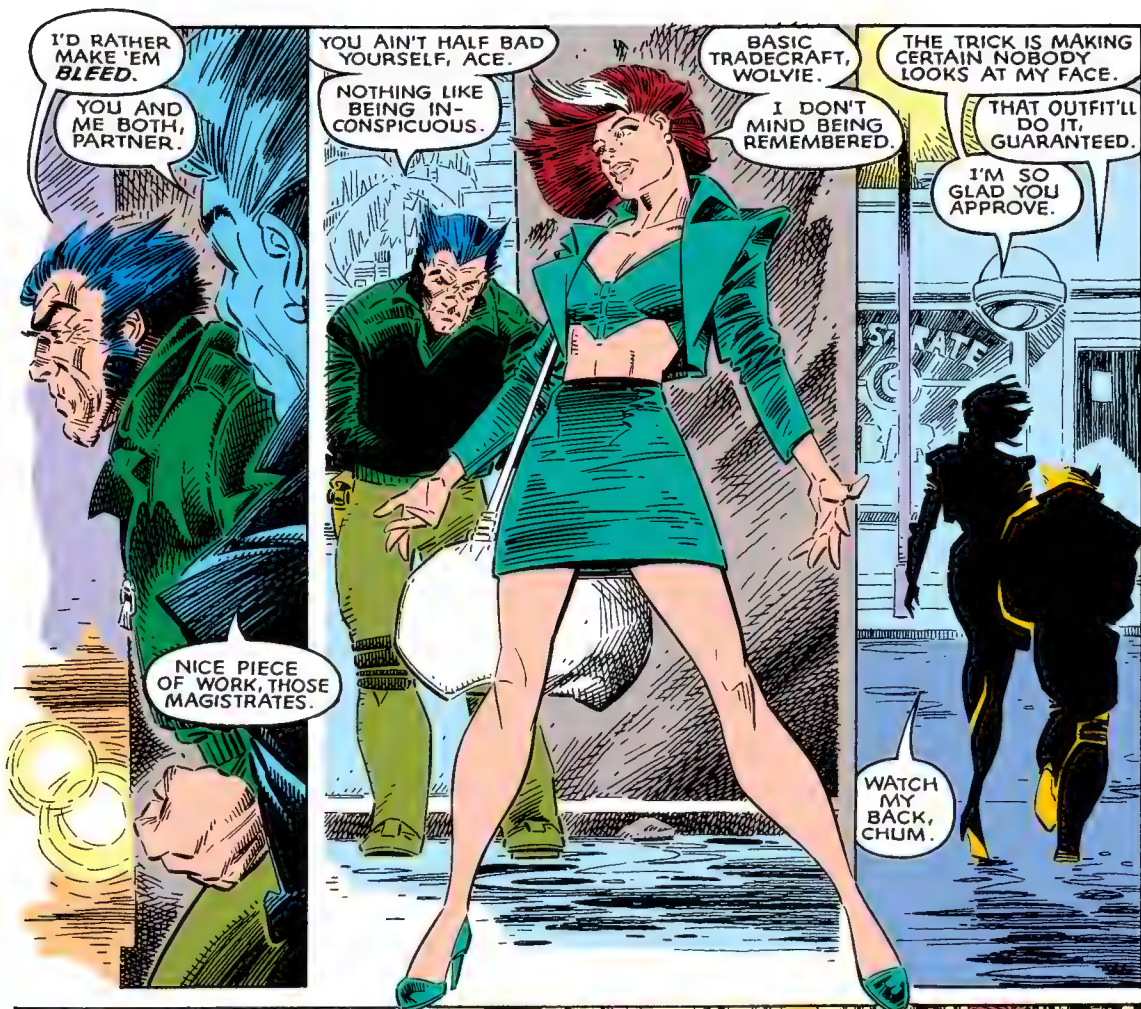
"USED ORIGINALLY-- AND FOR CENTURIES-- AS A HAVEN FOR INDIAN OCEAN CORSAIRS (AND RUMORED TO BE THE DESTINATION OF ONE OF SINBAD THE SAILOR'S LEGENDARY VOYAGES), IT WAS SETTLED DURING THE GREAT AGES OF EXPLORATION.

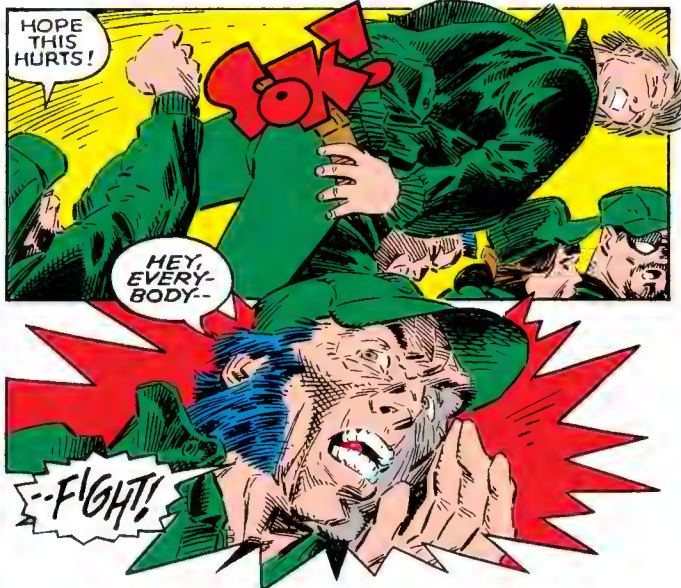
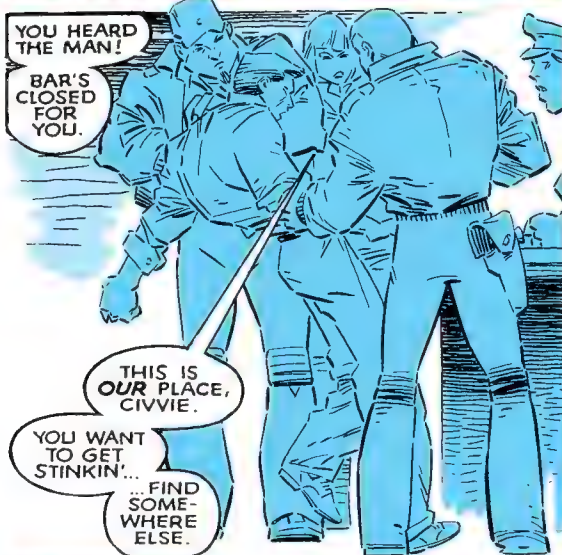
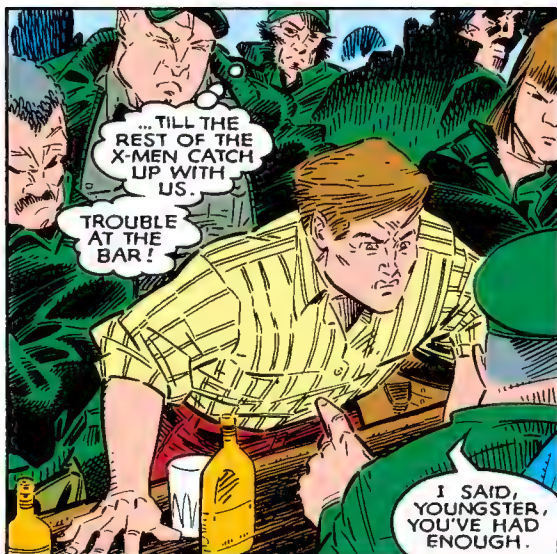
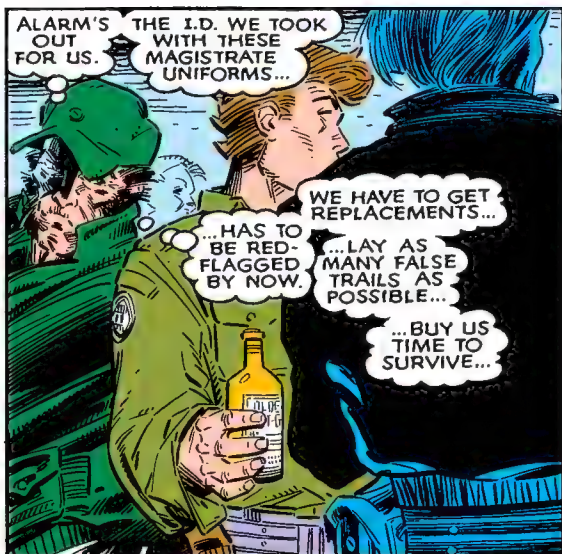
"THE SUPERB NATURAL ANCHORAGE AT HAMMER BAY FORMED THE FOUNDATION OF OUR COMMERCE, AND TRADE WAS OUR INITIAL SOURCE OF WEALTH-- UNTIL THE DISCOVERY OF IRON ORE AND OTHER PRECIOUS METALS IN THE RIDGEBACK MOUNTAINS, IRON WHICH IS PROCESSED INTO THE FINEST STEEL AVAILABLE ON EARTH, WITH AN ABSOLUTE MINIMUM OF POLLUTION AND AT A COST THAT CANNOT BE BEAT.

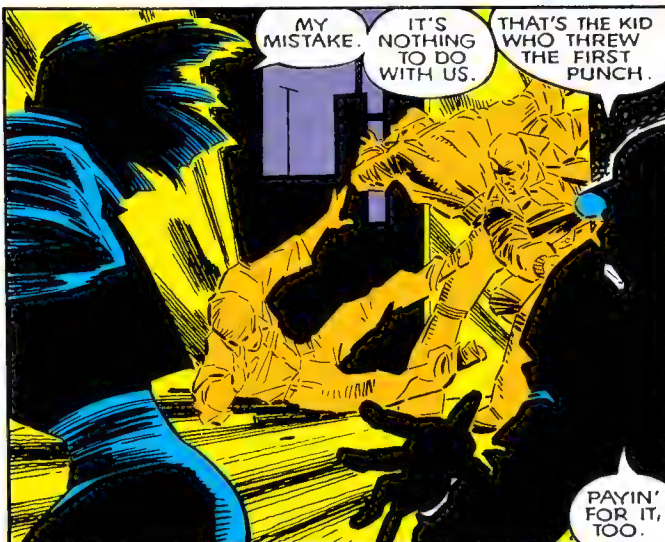
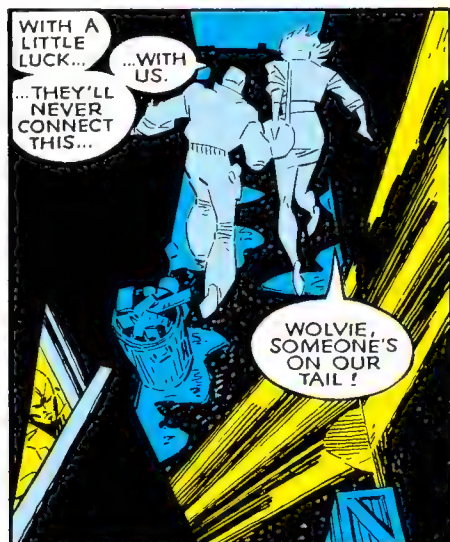
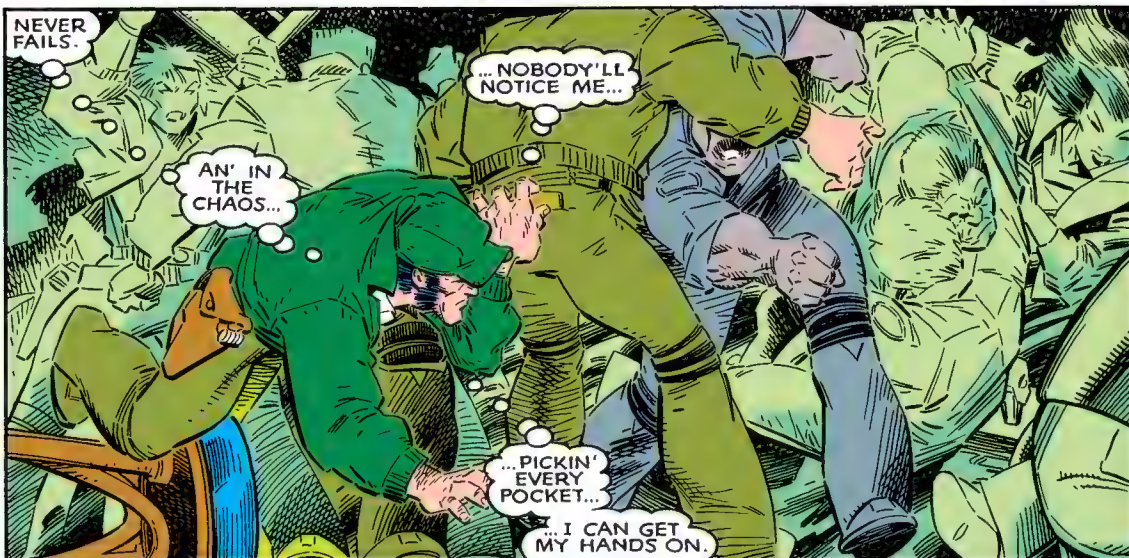
"OVER THE YEARS, GENOSHA HAS BUILT AN ECONOMY AND SOCIETY THAT IS THE ENVY OF THE WORLD. THERE IS NO POVERTY HERE, NO HARDSHIP, WITH UNPARALLELED OPPORTUNITIES FOR EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT. OURS IS A FREE LAND, WHERE PEOPLE ARE JUDGED BY DEEDS AND CHARACTER, NOT THE COLOR OF THEIR SKIN."

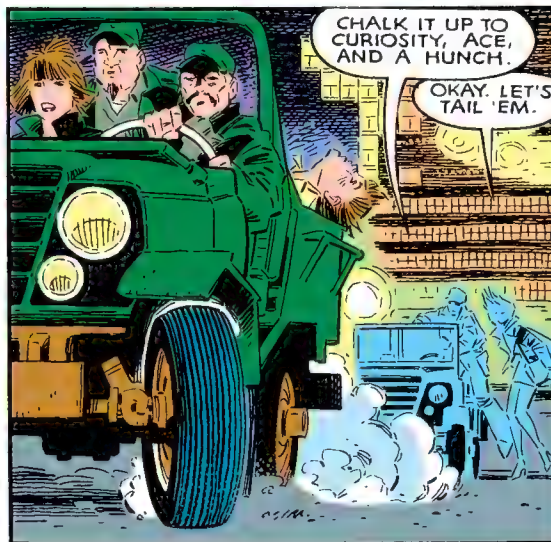
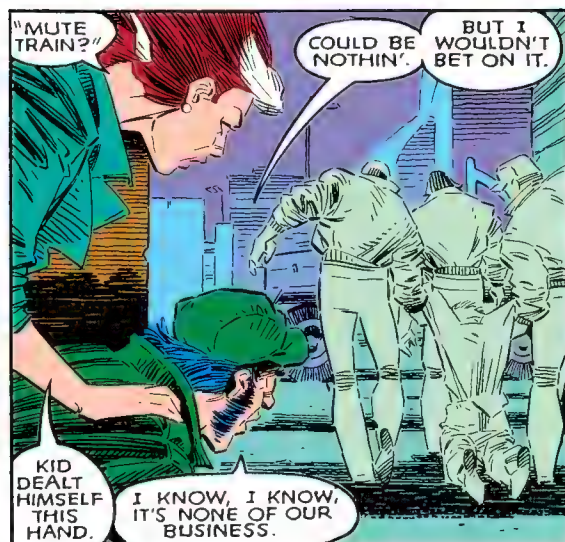
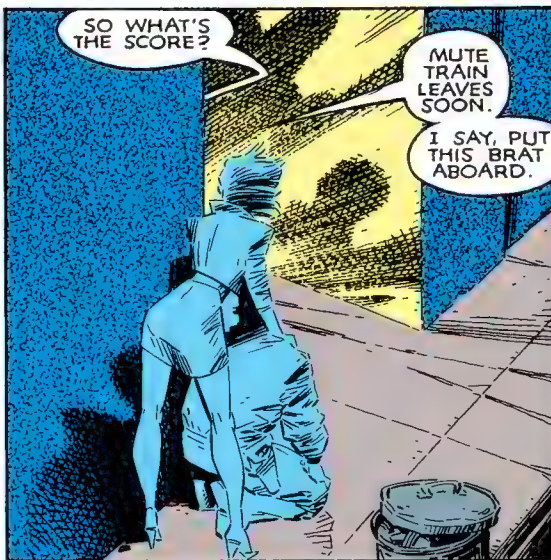
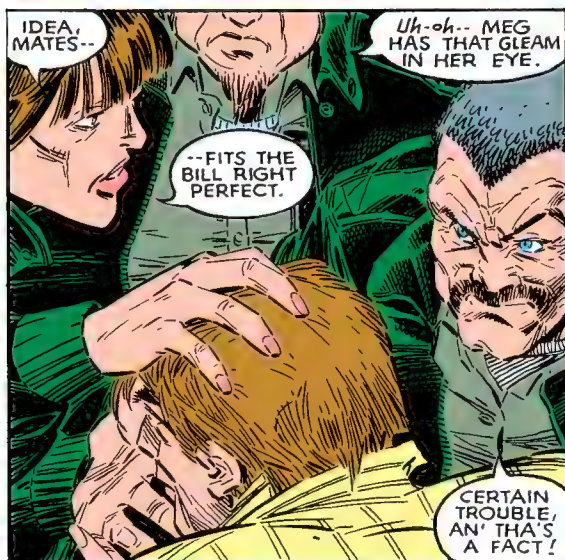
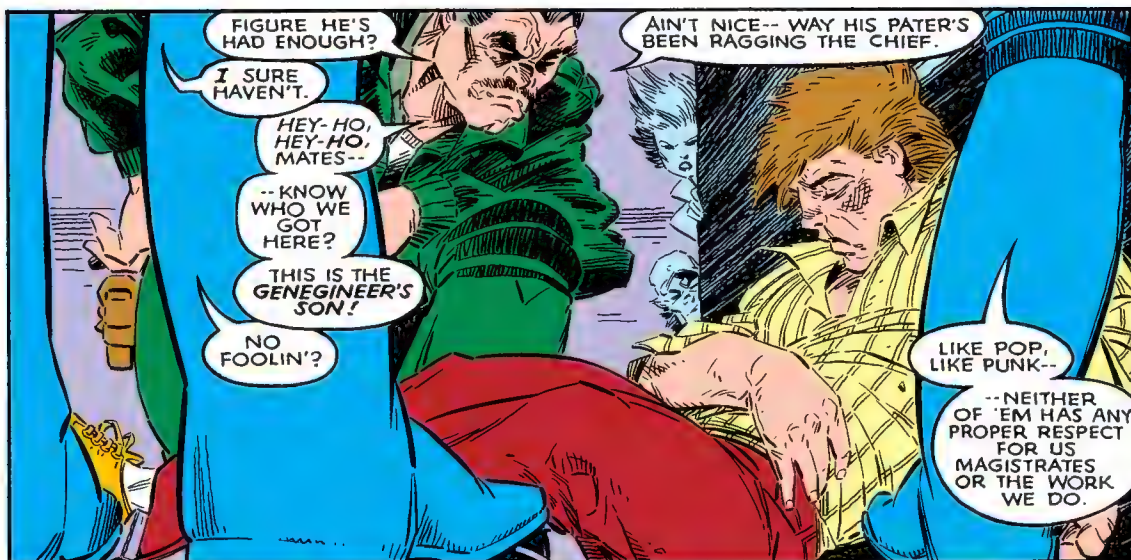


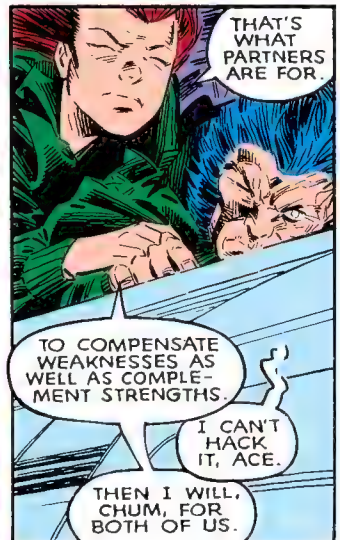
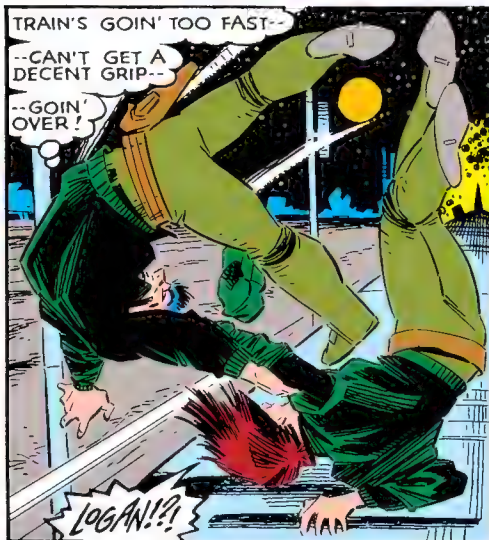
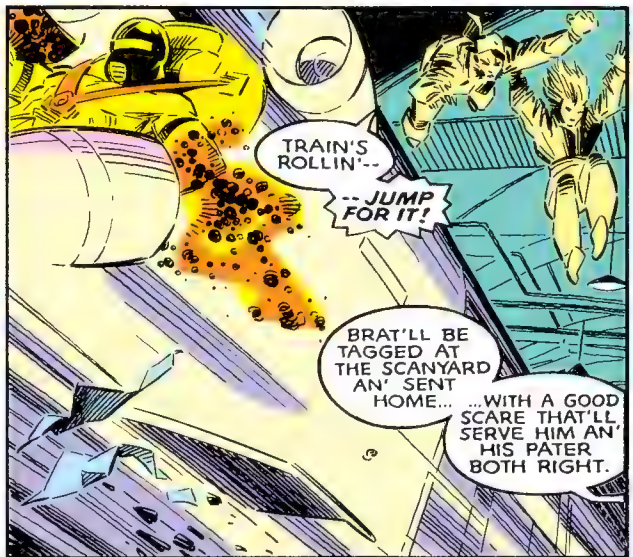
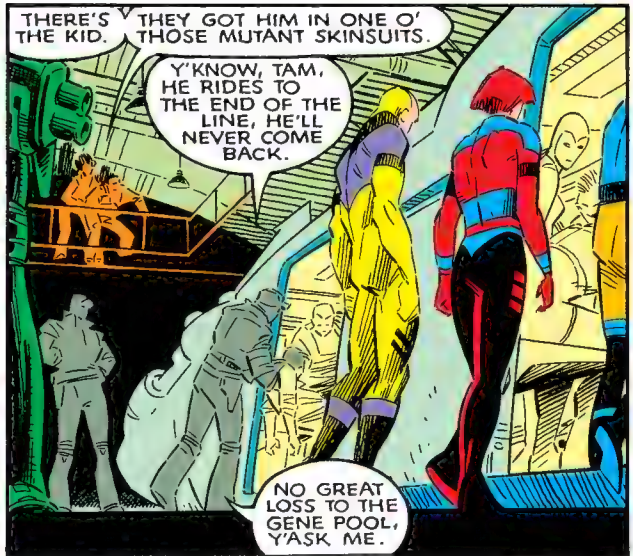


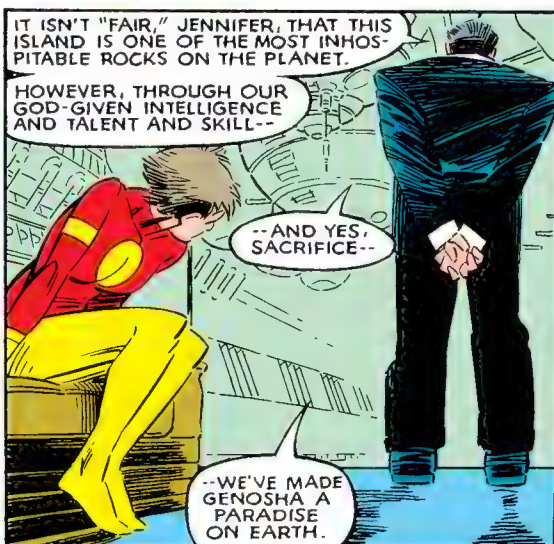
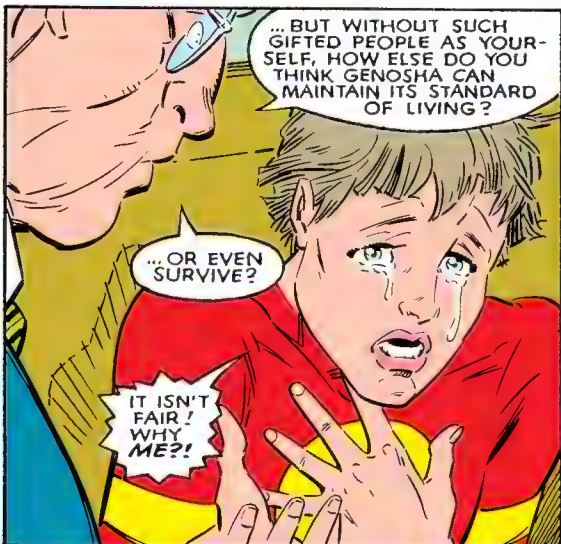
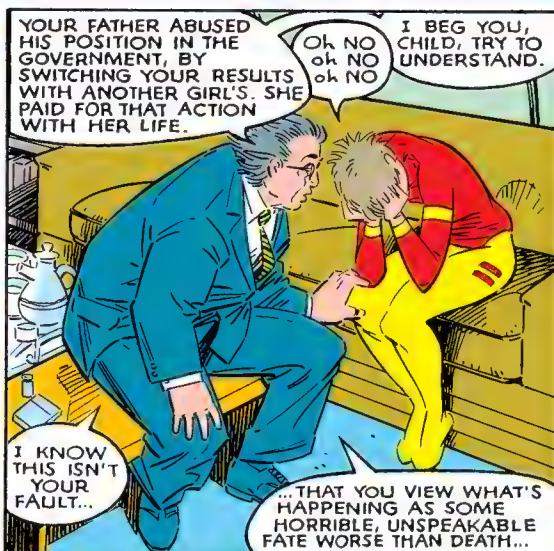
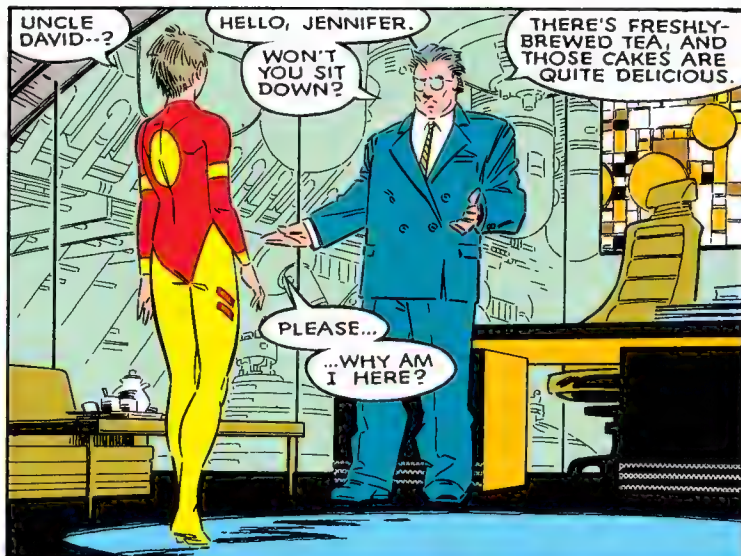


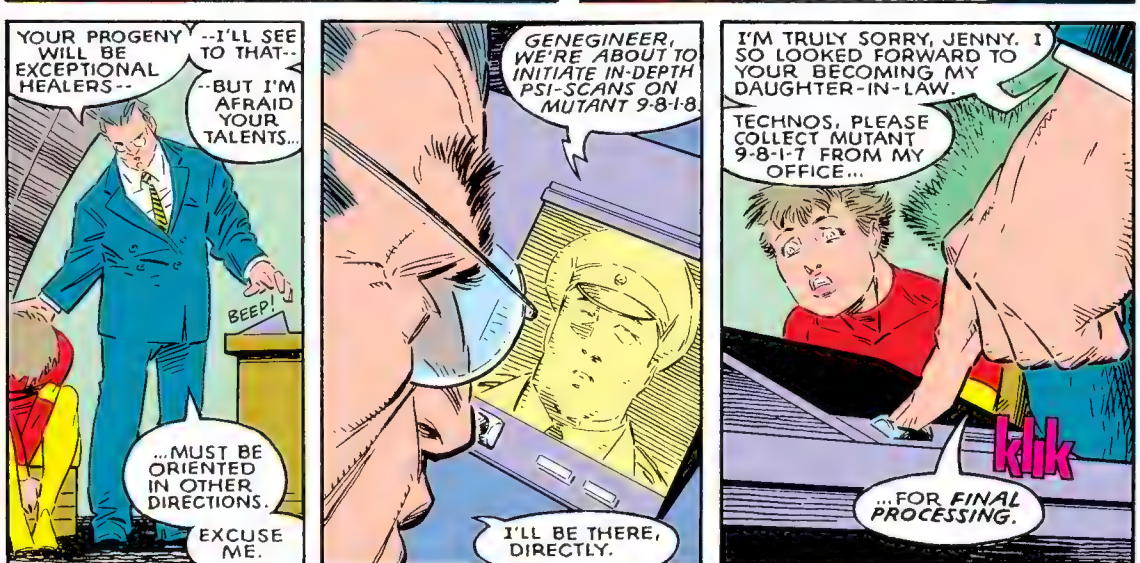
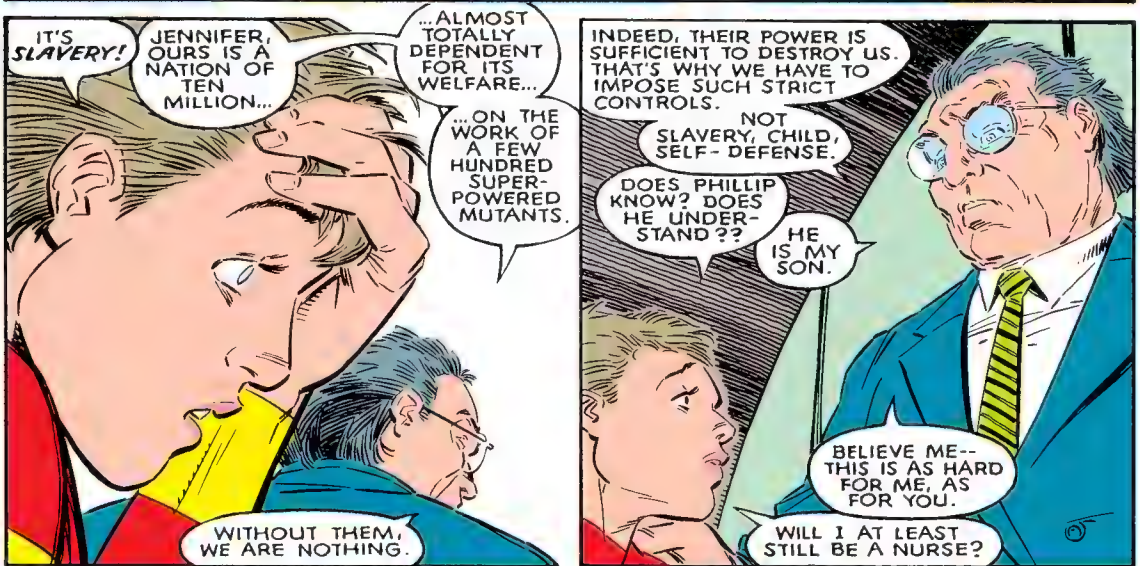
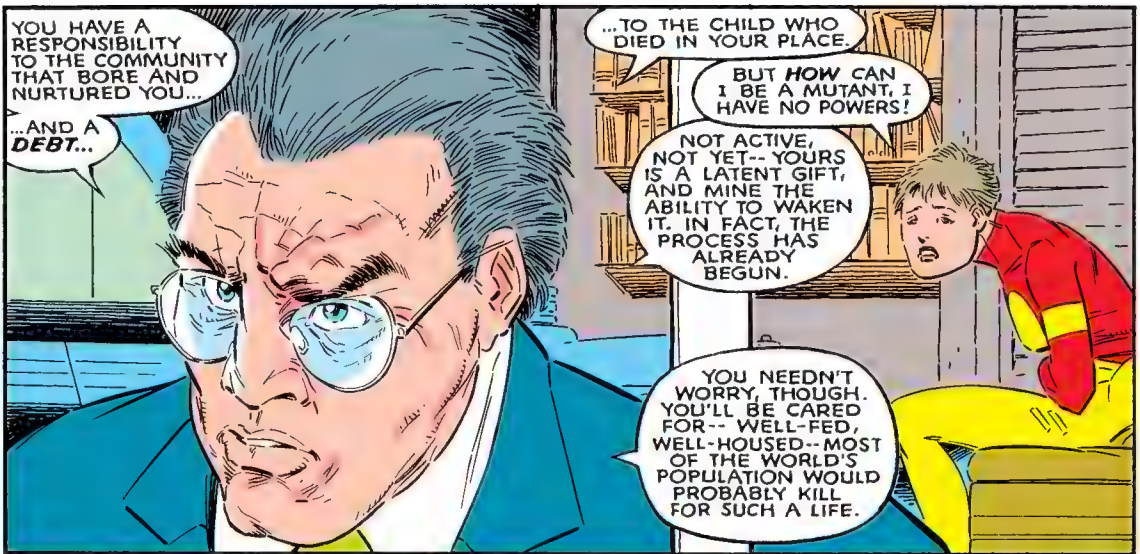


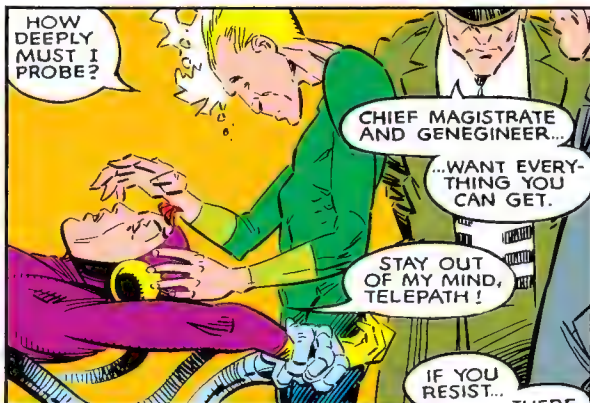
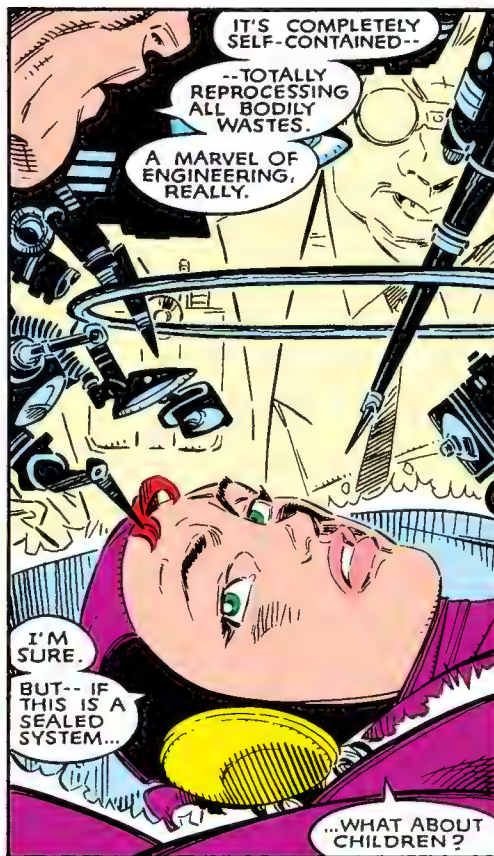


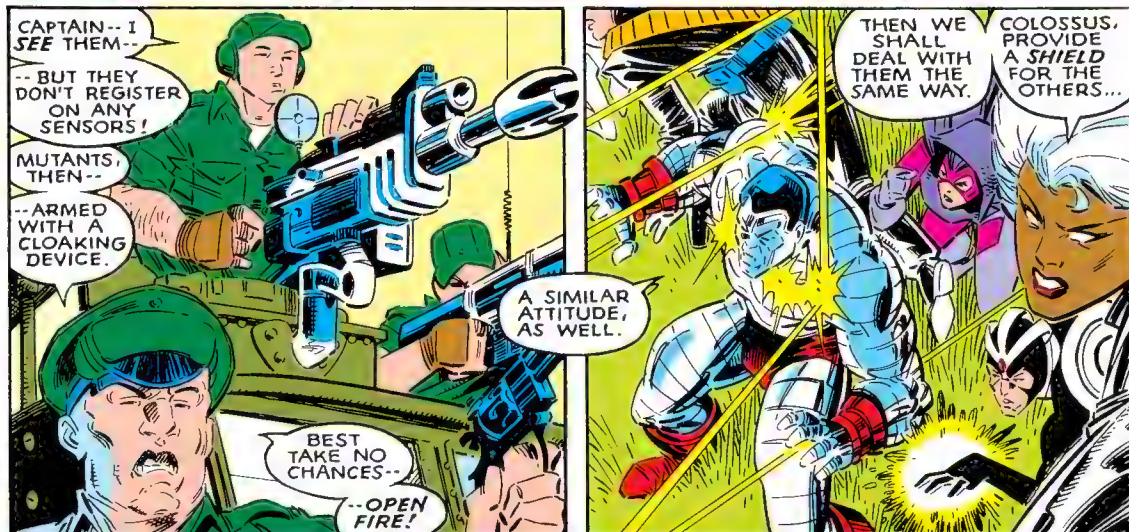
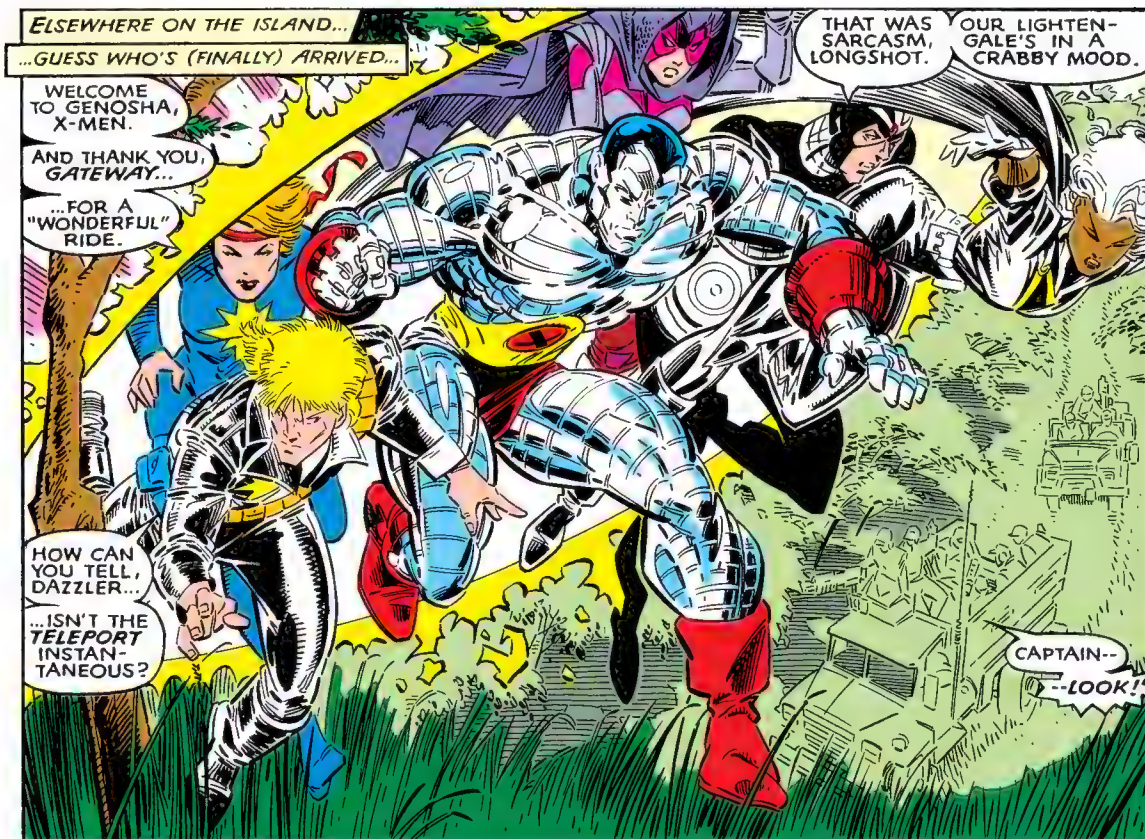


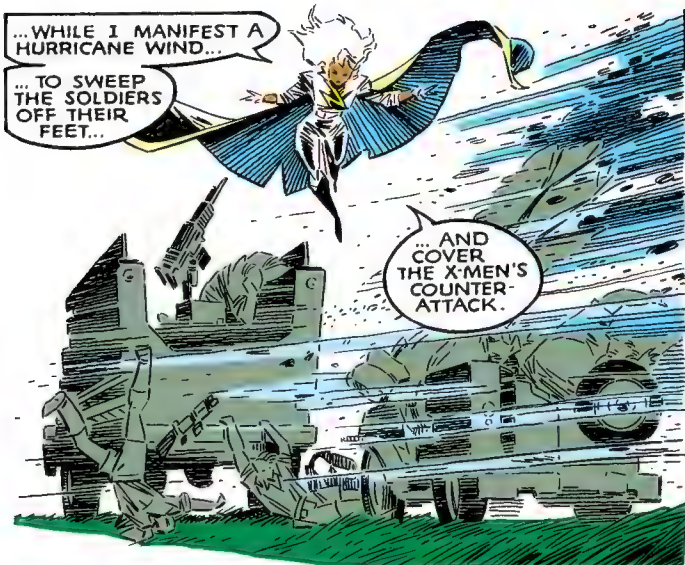






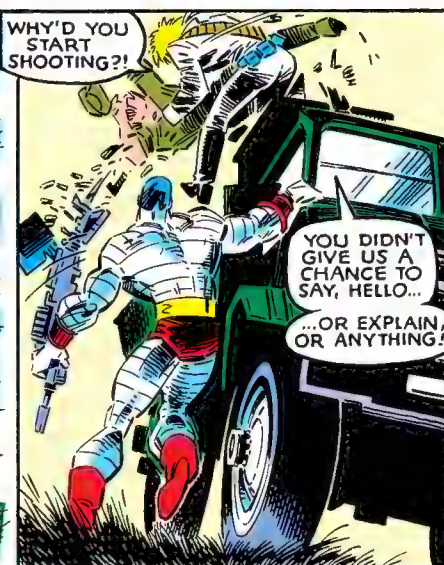






...WHILE I MANIFEST A HURRICANE WIND...
...TO SWEEP THE SOLDIERS OFF THEIR FEET...

...AND COVER THE X-MEN'S COUNTER-ATTACK.



WHY'D YOU START SHOOTING?!

YOU DIDN'T GIVE US A CHANCE TO SAY, HELLO...
...OR EXPLAIN, OR ANYTHING?



WE'RE MAGISTRATES, GENEJOKE...

THERE'S THAT NASTY WORD AGAIN.

--WE DON'T EXPLAIN TO THE LIKES OF YOU WHOOP!

HAVOK, THESE MEN HAVE NO FURTHER NEED OF THEIR VEHICLE.

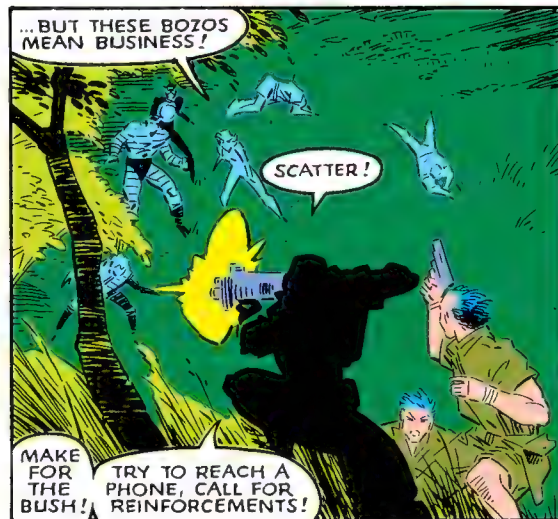
WOULD YOU CARE TO DISPOSE OF IT?

MY PLEASURE, BIG GUY.



ZAPOW!

HEY, FELLAS, I LOVE SNAPPY PATTERN AS MUCH AS ANYONE...

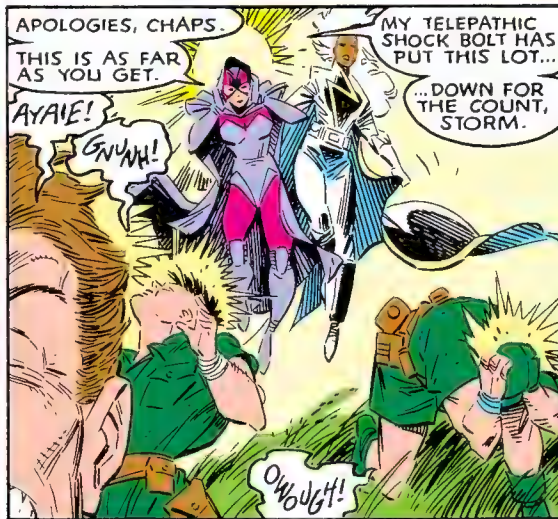


...BUT THESE BOZOS MEAN BUSINESS!

SCATTER!

MAKE FOR THE BUSH!

TRY TO REACH A PHONE, CALL FOR REINFORCEMENTS!



APOLOGIES, CHAPS.

THIS IS AS FAR AS YOU GET.

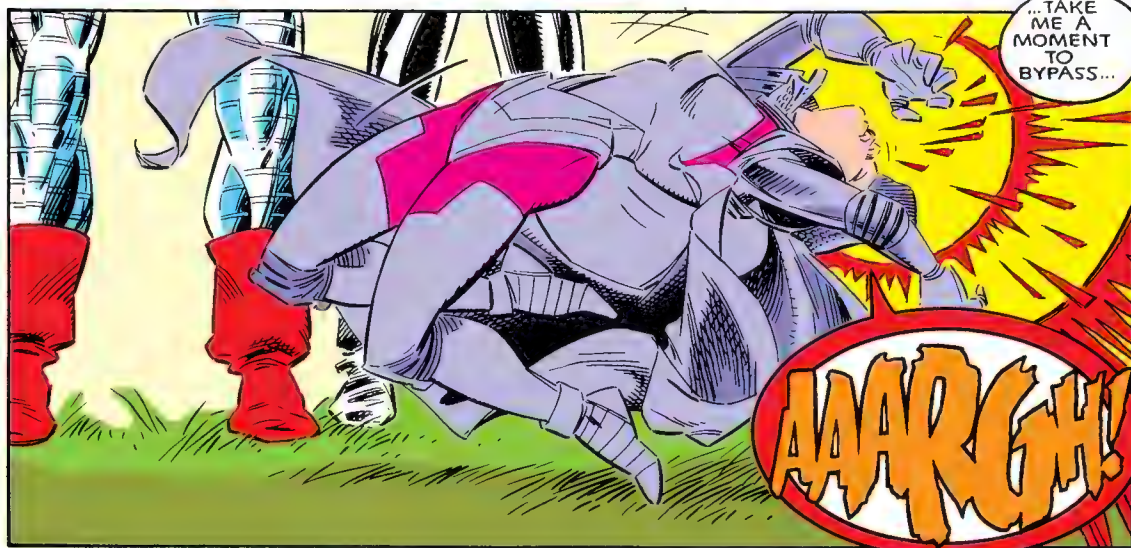
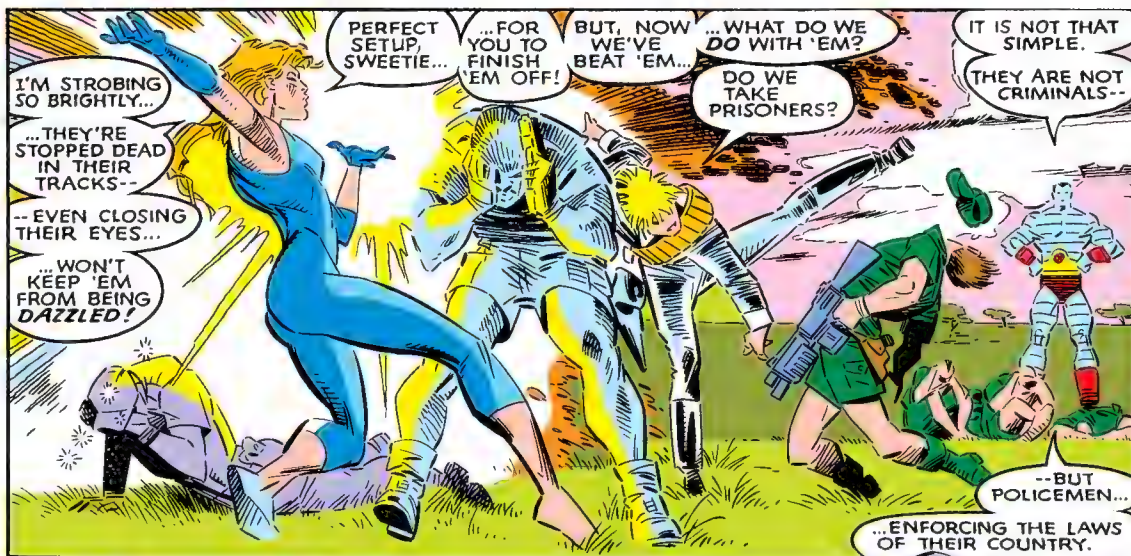
AYAH!

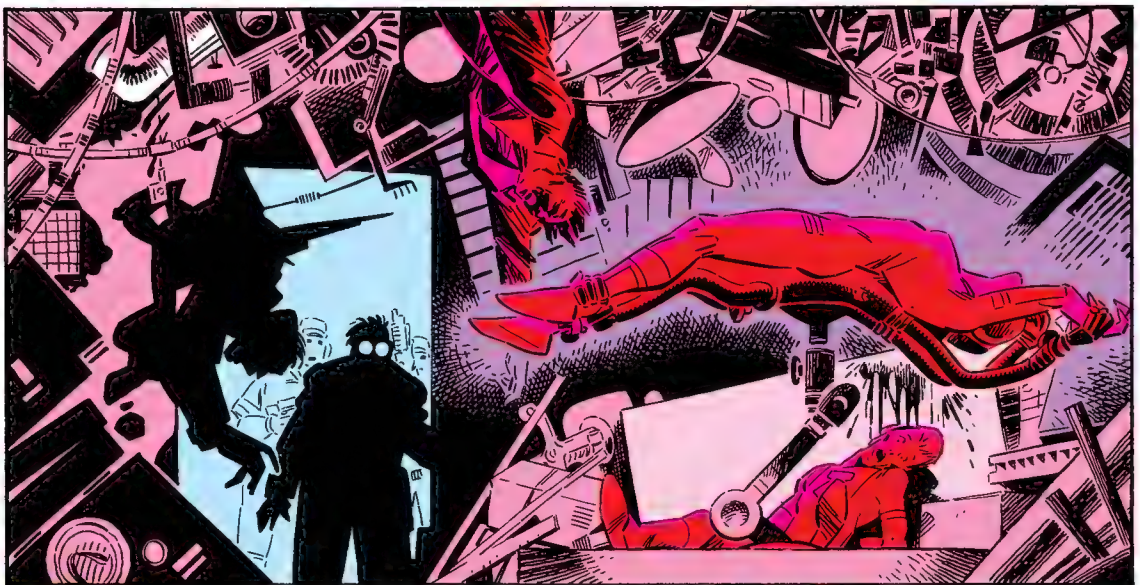
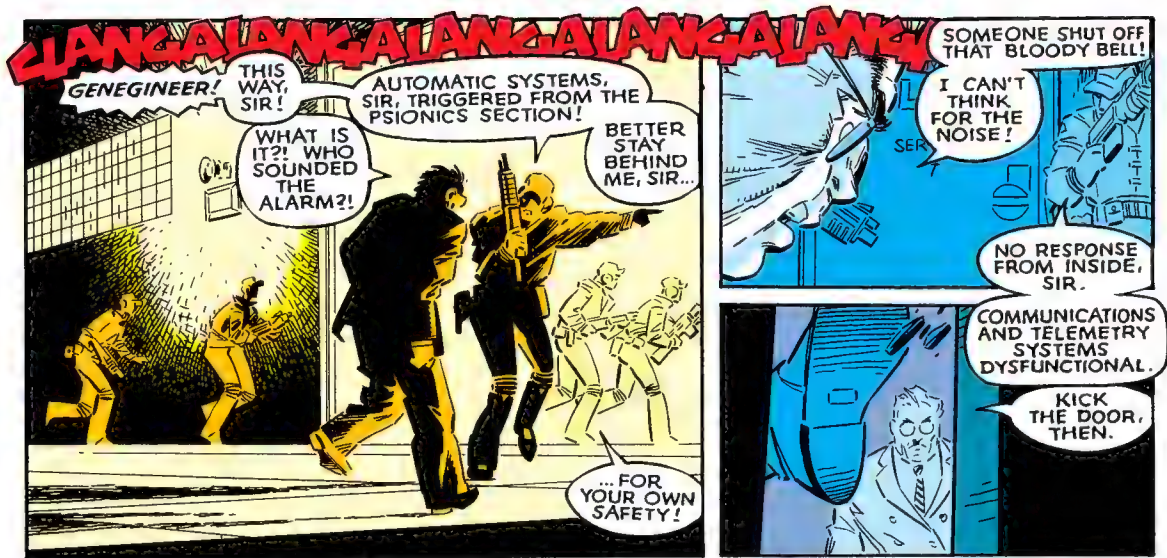
GYAH!

MY TELEPATHIC SHOCK BOLT HAS PUT THIS LOT...

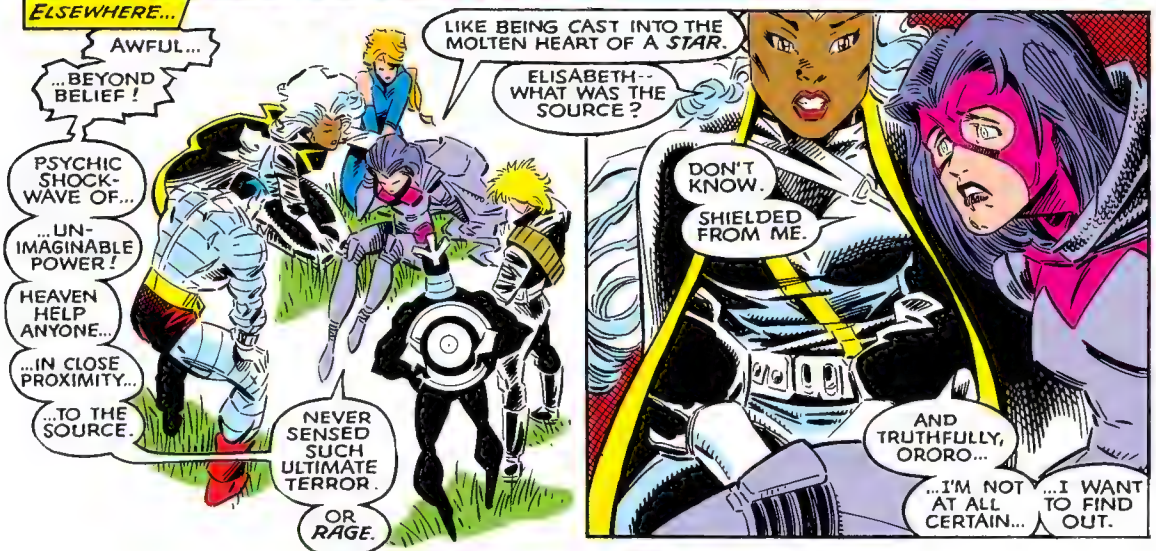
...DOWN FOR THE COUNT, STORM.

Ow! Ough!





ELSEWHERE...



THE
"MUTE
TRAIN"...

...ENTERING THE FOOTHILLS OF
THE RIDGEBACK RANGE...

...THE MOUNTAINS THAT FORM
A WALL ACROSS THE WIDTH
OF THE ISLAND.

THAT
MUTANT
DRIVER'S
GENERATING
SOME
SERIOUS
SPEED.

WITHOUT OUR POWERS,
WE HAVEN'T A PRAYER OF
SURVIVING IF WE JUMP.

I'M AFRAID,
PARTNER,
WE'RE
ABOARD
FOR THE
DURATION.

CALCULATED
RISK, ACE.
WE KNEW
THAT FROM
THE START.

WE'LL JUST HAVE
TO KEEP PUSHIN'
OUR LUCK FOR
ALL IT'S
WORTH...

... AN' HOPE THE
CLOWNS AT THE
END OF THE LINE
ACCEPT US AT
FACE VALUE.

MEANTIME,
LET'S GET
INSIDE.

LOGAN, YOUR
HAND--YOU'RE
BLEEDING!

NO POWER,
NO HEALIN'
FACTOR.

NORMALLY
SEALS THE
WOUND...

...OPENED
BY THE
CLAWS...

...SOON
AS IT'S
MADE.

THANKS FOR THE BANDAGE.

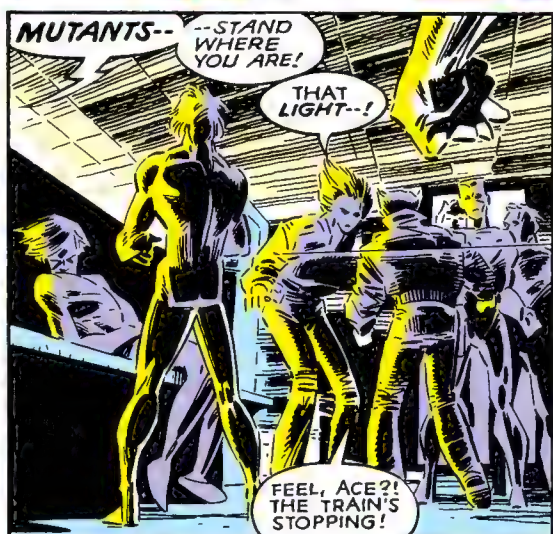
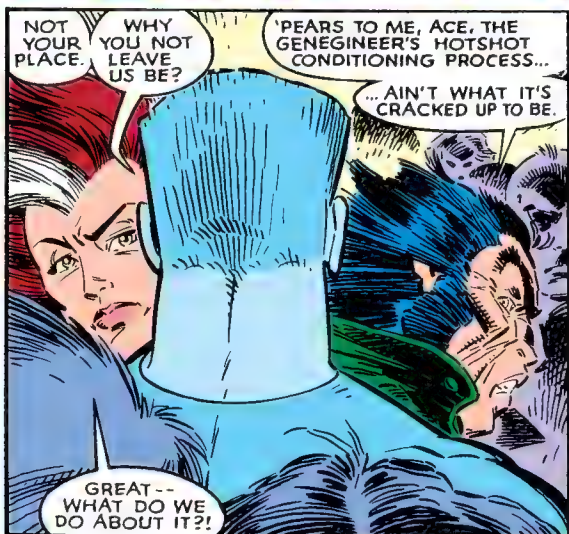
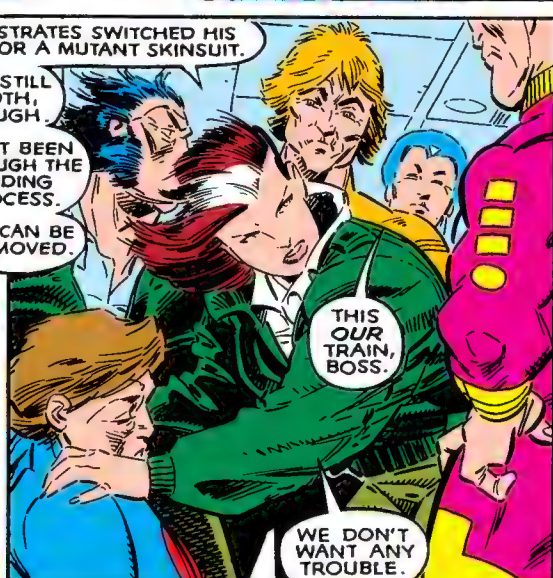
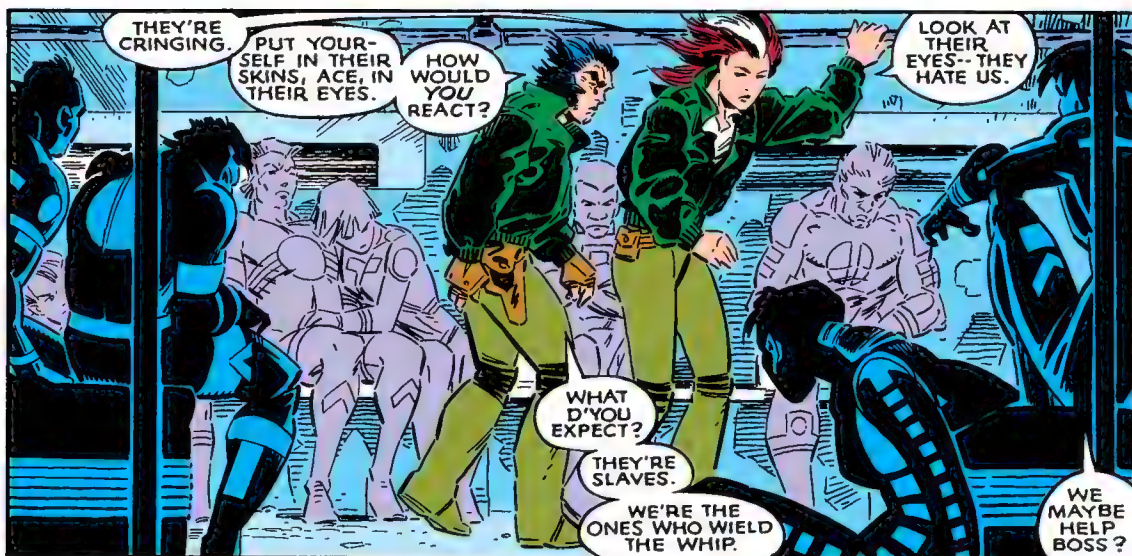
YOU'VE DONE AS
MUCH-- AND
MORE-- FOR ME.

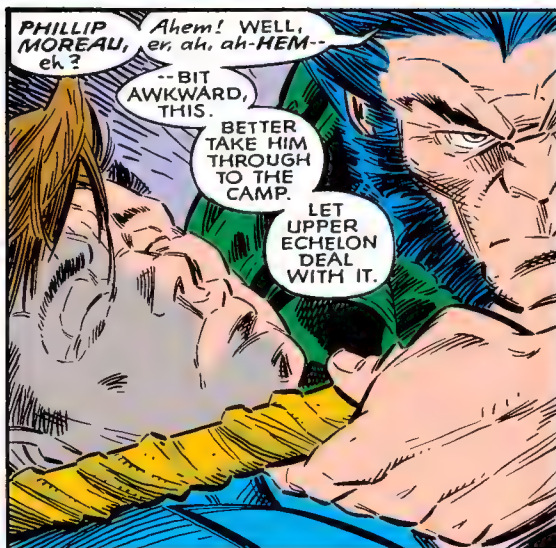
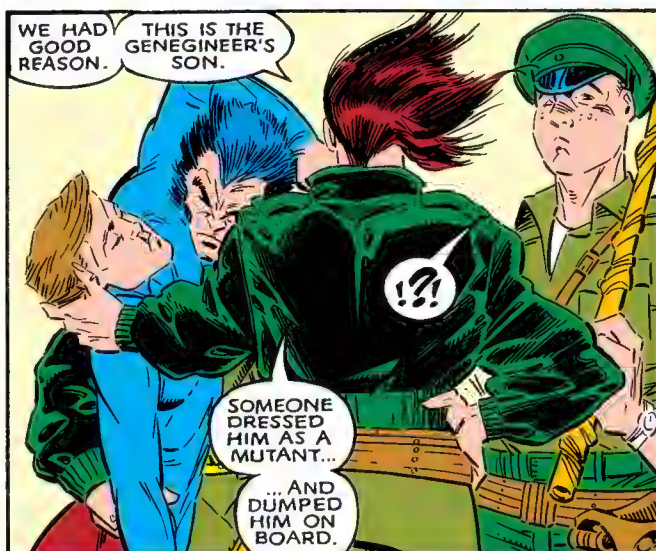
WE'RE RUNNING
OUT OF TIME.

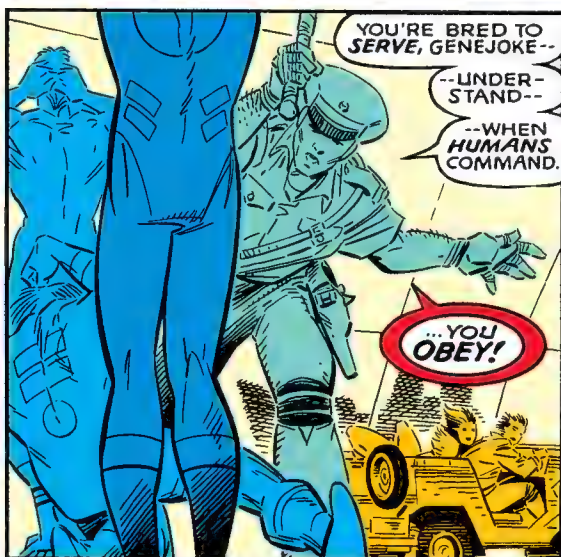
HE'S
VISIBLY
WEAKENING
BY THE
HOUR.

IF WOLVIE'S
POWERS
AREN'T
RESTORED--

--HE'LL
DIE!







MARVEL

THE UNCANNY

X-MEN



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A STAN LEE
PRESENTATION
STARRING
THE UNCANNY
X-MEN

GONNA BE A REVOLUTION

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"I THOUGHT WE COULDN'T SCAN
THE WOMAN'S THOUGHTS?"

"WE CAN'T. THIS IS A PSYCHIC
TRANSCRIPT FROM THE MIND OF
THE EXAMINING TELEPATH."

"EVIDENTLY, THIS IS
HOW THE WOMAN
PERCEIVES HERSELF."

"WHAT'S THAT SONG
SHE'S SINGING?"

"'GONE TO AMERICA,'
BY A GROUP CALLED
STEELEYE SPAN."

"IS THAT SIGNIFICANT?"

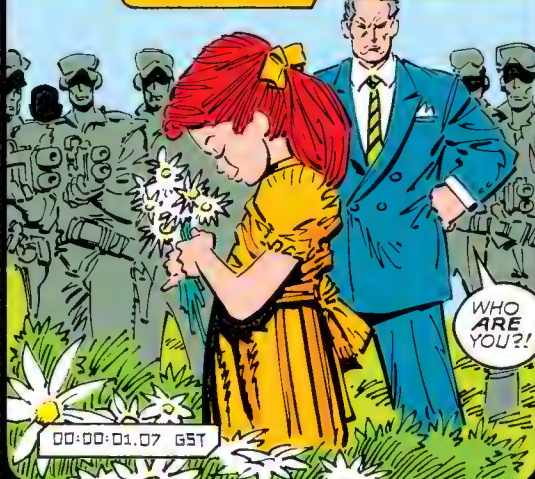
"UNKNOWN."

"TOO MUCH ABOUT
THIS WOMAN IS
UNKNOWN, CHIEF
MAGISTRATE. I
DON'T LIKE IT."

GENOSHAN BUREAU OF STATE SECURITY
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF MAGISTRATE
MINDTAP RECORDING 11311819
1 AUGUST 1988 MONDAY 00:00:00.13 GST

"THAT'S--
ME?!"

"CORRECT, GENENGINEER. EVEN THOUGH
THE TELEPATH WAS CONDUCTING THE
INTERROGATION, THE WOMAN CORRECTLY
PERCEIVED YOU AS THE TRUE SOURCE OF
THE QUESTIONS."

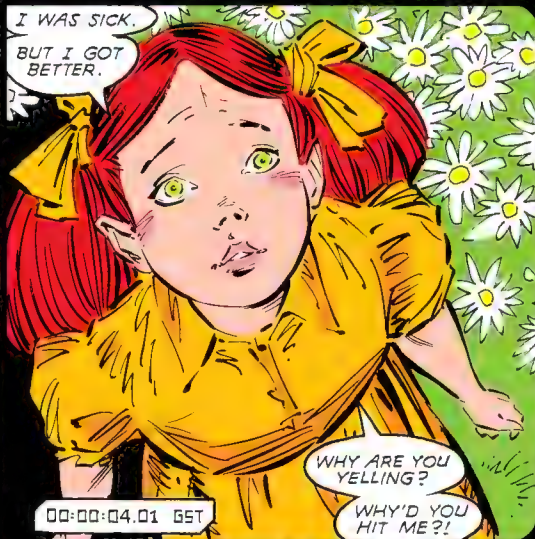


STOP THIS
FOOLISHNESS,
GIRL!

WHAT'S THE
MEANING
OF THIS
CHILDHOOD
FACADE...



I WAS SICK.
BUT I GOT
BETTER.



WHY DO
YOU WANT
TO HURT ME?!



YOU'RE--
NOT
HUMAN!

I AM
WHAT
I AM.

WHAT
MEN
LIKE
YOU...

...HAVE
MADE
ME.

MAGISTRATES--

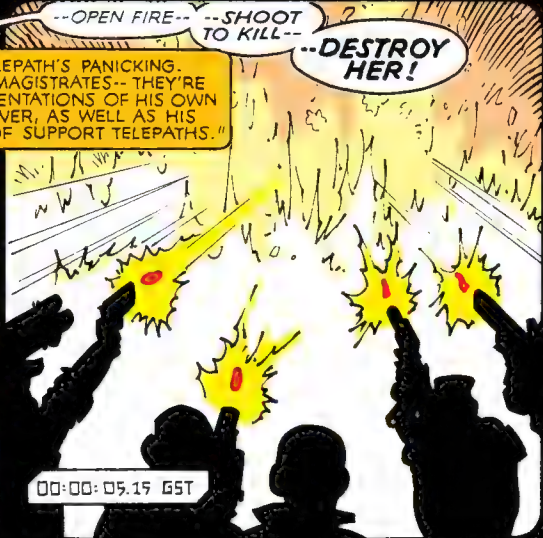
--OPEN FIRE--

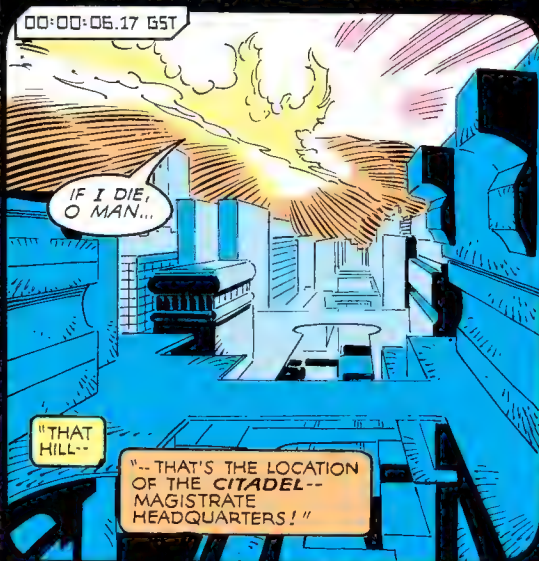
--SHOOT
TO KILL--

?

**DESTROY
HER!**

"THE TELEPATH'S PANICKING.
THOSE MAGISTRATES-- THEY'RE
REPRESENTATIONS OF HIS OWN
PSI-POWER, AS WELL AS HIS
TEAM OF SUPPORT TELEPATHS."





00:00:08.93 GST

THE ONE
AND ONLY.
BUT-- YOU'RE
DIFFERENT!

AREN'T
WE ALL!

FROM CHAOS,
CHANGE,
AND CHANGE,
GROWTH.

THE PATTERN OF
LIFE, AS OLD
AS CREATION.

QUESTION, THOUGH, IS
THIS THE GROWTH, THE
CHANGE-- OR THE CHAOS?

00:00:10.39 GST

"LOOK AT HER,
GENENGINEER!
SHE'S
HESITATING,
CONFUSED--

"--I DON'T
THINK SHE
KNOWS THE
ANSWER!"

THE
ONE...

...BECAUSE...

...IT PLEASES ME.

00:00:12.77 GST

...THROUGH THE
DARKNESS.

BECAUSE
YOU NEVER
KNOW...

...WHEN
YOU'LL
IGNITE...

YEAH!!

00:00:09.13 GST

NO!
NO! IT
CAN'T
BE!

I'VE
NEVER
LOST
CONTROL
OF AN
INTERROGA-
TION!

FIRST
TIME
FOR
EVERY-
THING.

WHY AM I
DRESSED
LIKE THIS?!

WHAT DO
YOU WANT?!!

00:00:11.52 GST

THE
OTHER...

...AS A
WARNING...

...TO YOUR
MASTERS.

BE CAREFUL
WHEN YOU
STRIKE A
MATCH--

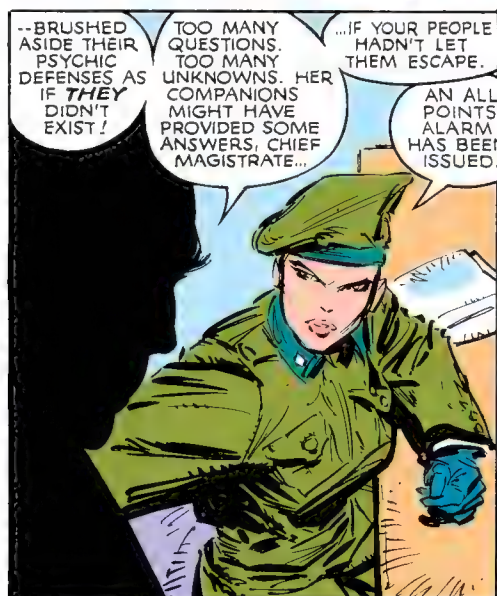
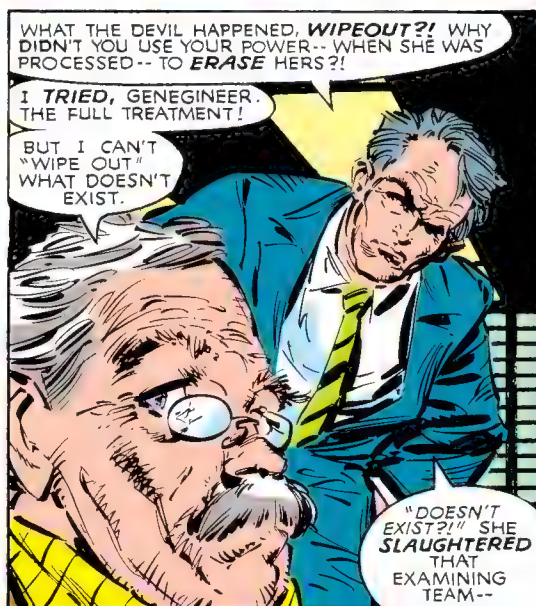
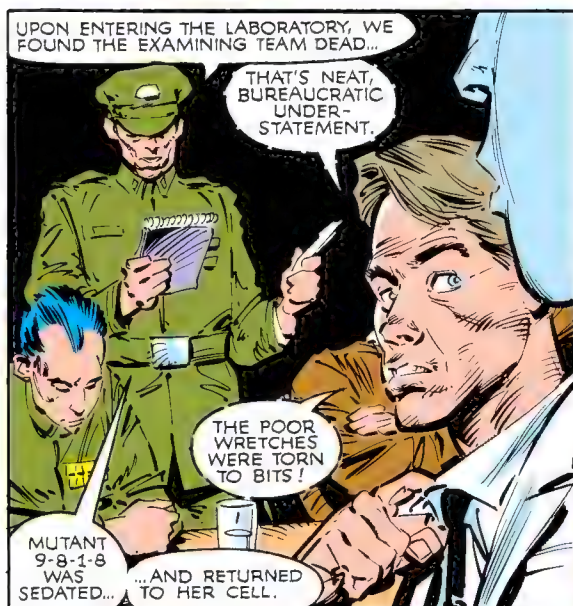
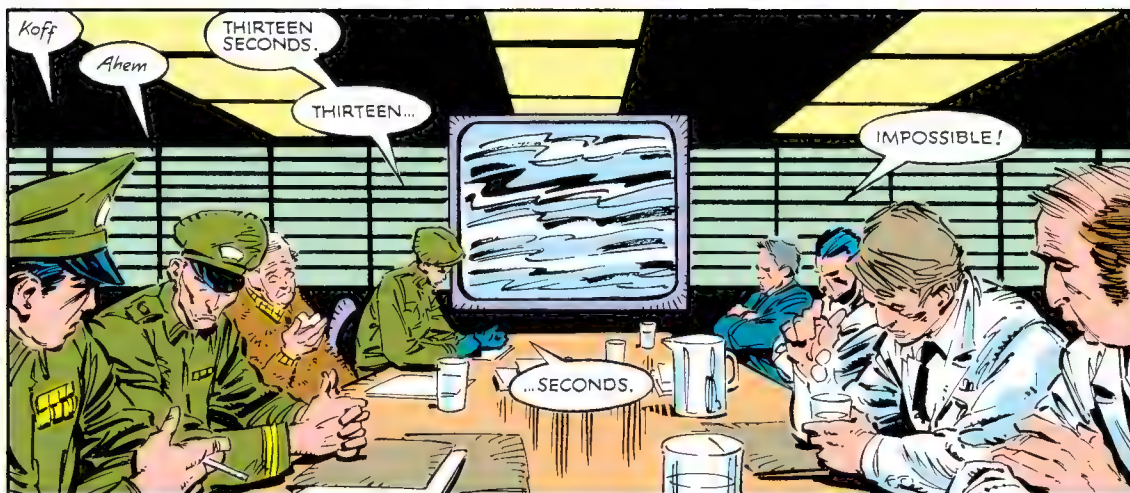
-- EVEN
IF ONLY...

...TO LIGHT
YOUR WAY...

00:00:13.00 GST

...AN
INFERNO!

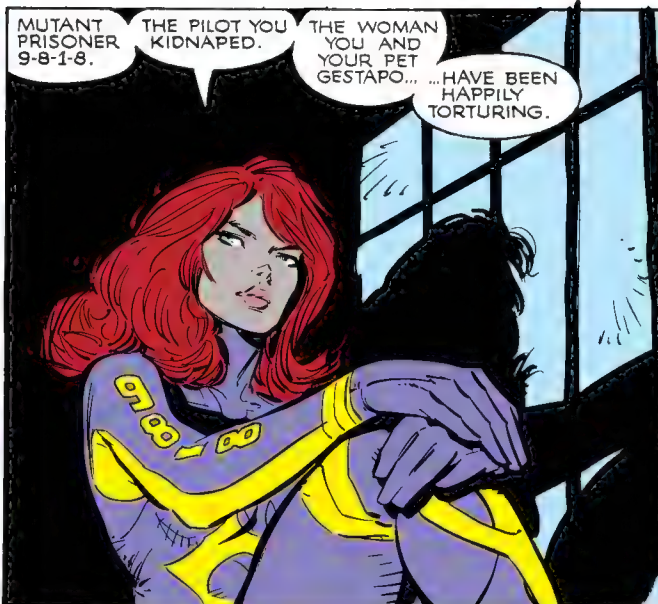
INTERROGATION
TERMINATED





WHO ARE YOU?!

WHAT ARE YOU?!!



MUTANT PRISONER 9-8-1-8.

THE PILOT YOU KIDNAPED.

THE WOMAN YOU AND YOUR PET GESTAPO...

...HAVE BEEN HAPPILY TORTURING.



YOU **BUTCHERED** MY INTERROGATION TEAM!

IT DIDN'T BOTHER HIM THAT THE PROCESS VIOLATED ME, OR THAT IT HURT--

--HE SEEMED TO ENJOY IT.

THE NEXT I KNEW, I WAS HERE, BACK IN MY CELL.

YOU CALL IT "BUTCHERY." OTHERS MIGHT CALL IT SELF DEFENSE!

SO YOU SAY.

ALL I REMEMBER IS BEING STRAPPED TO A TABLE, WITH YOUR PET TELEPATH HOT TO TURN MY MIND INSIDE OUT.



BUT WHAT I THINK AND FEEL AND WANT DON'T REALLY MATTER, DO THEY? I WAS CONDEMNED THE MOMENT I ARRIVED HERE.

WE HAVE A WAY OF LIFE ON GENOSHA...

...THAT'S THE ENVY OF THE WORLD.

IT MUST BE PROTECTED.

EVER WONDER IF YOUR **SLAVES** SHARE THOSE PASSIONS?

OUR MUTANTS ARE WELL CARED FOR, THEY WANT FOR NOTHING--!

EXCEPT **FREEDOM!**

THEY'RE AS FREE AS THEY NEED TO BE!



MOST PEOPLE ON EARTH WOULD WELCOME SUCH FREEDOM IN RETURN FOR THE MATERIAL WELL-BEING THAT ACCOMPANIES IT!

THEN WHAT ARE YOU SO SCARED OF?

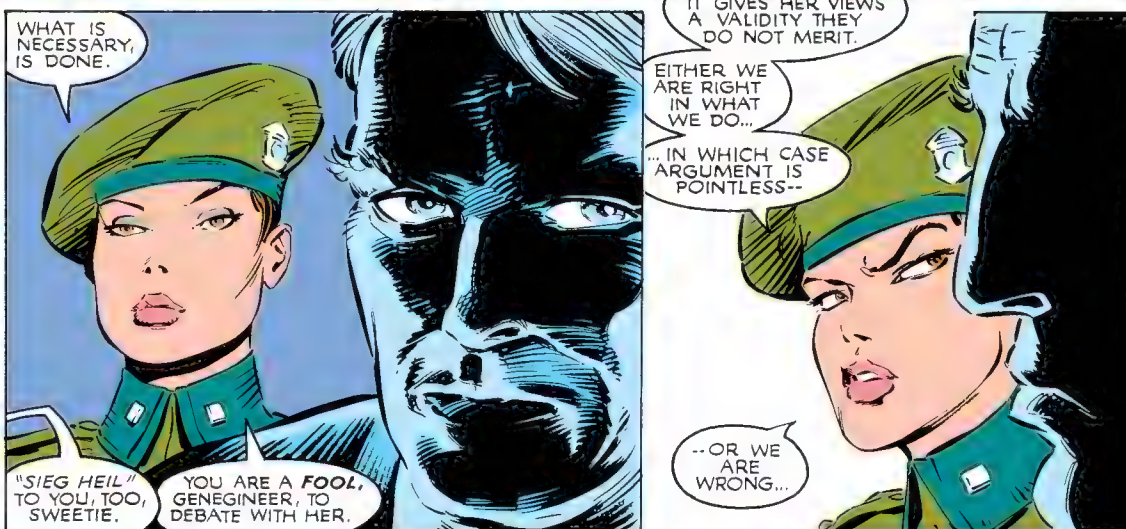
IF YOUR SYSTEM'S SUCH A MARVEL, WHY NOT SHARE IT WITH EVERYONE?

DON'T BE NAIVE. THE KNEE-JERK BLEEDING HEARTS WOULD CONDEMN US OUT OF HAND--

--WHILE WORKING COVERTLY TO EXPROPRIATE AND EXPLOIT OUR PARA-HUMAN RESOURCES FOR THEMSELVES. OUR **SECRECY** IS OUR STRENGTH, OUR SECURITY-- OUR **SURVIVAL!**

AND IF SOME INNOCENT BYSTANDERS GET CHOPPED ALONG THE WAY--

--THEM'S THE BREAKS, HUH?



WHAT IS NECESSARY, IS DONE.

IT GIVES HER VIEWS A VALIDITY THEY DO NOT MERIT.

EITHER WE ARE RIGHT IN WHAT WE DO...

...IN WHICH CASE ARGUMENT IS POINTLESS--

"SIEG HEIL" TO YOU, TOO, SWEETIE.

YOU ARE A FOOL, GENEGINEER, TO DEBATE WITH HER.

--OR WE ARE WRONG...



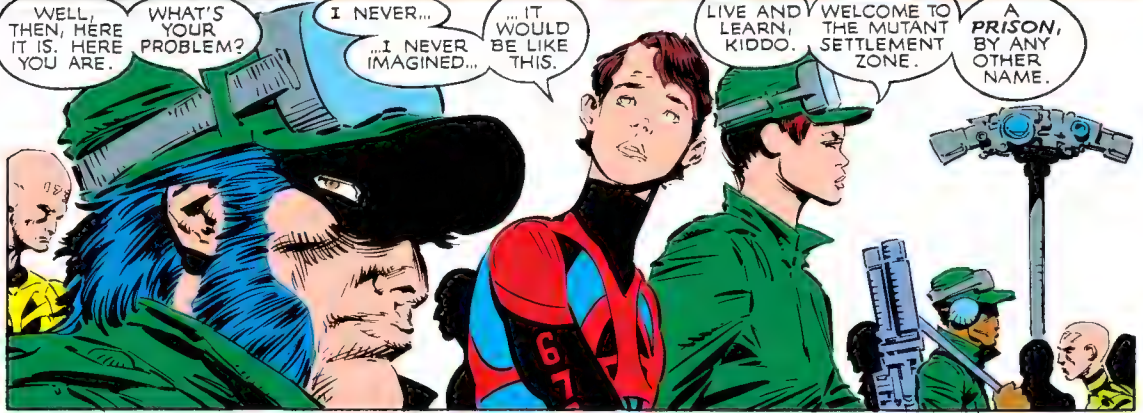
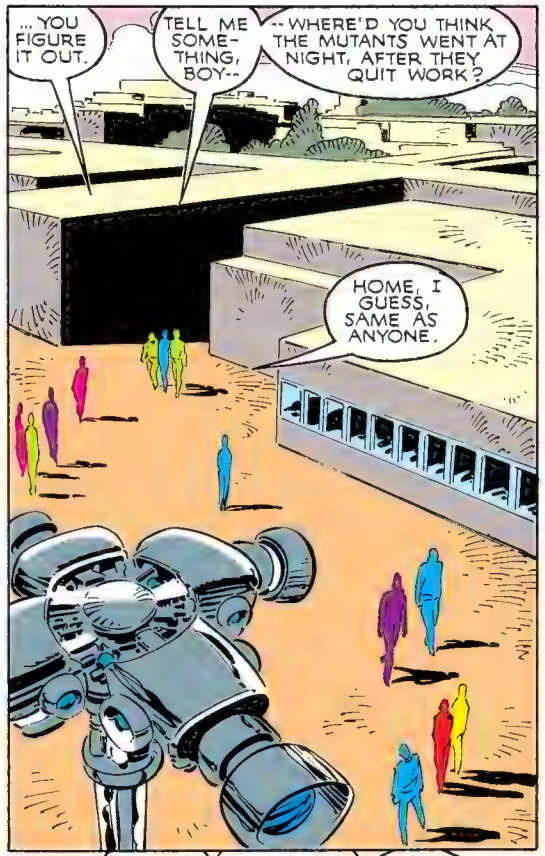
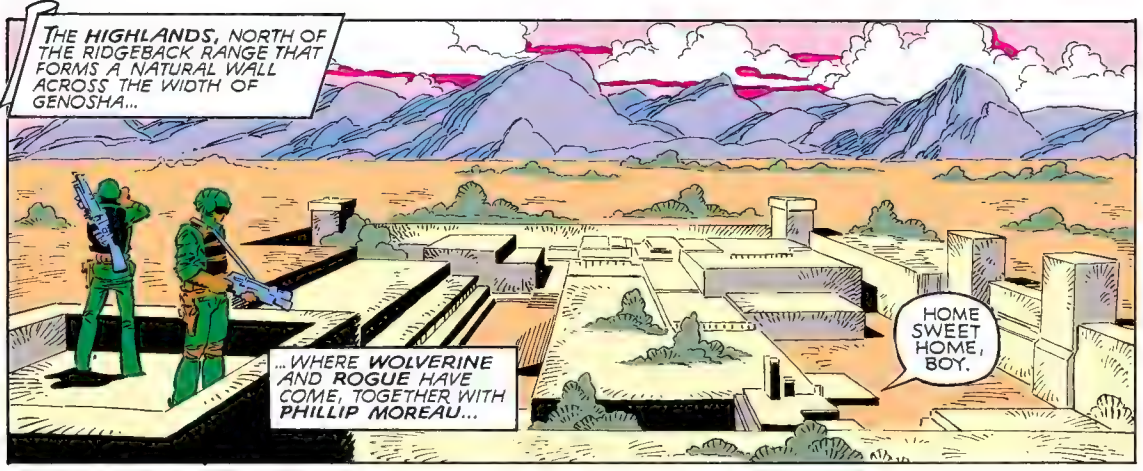
...IN WHICH CASE, ARGUMENT IS EQUALLY POINTLESS.

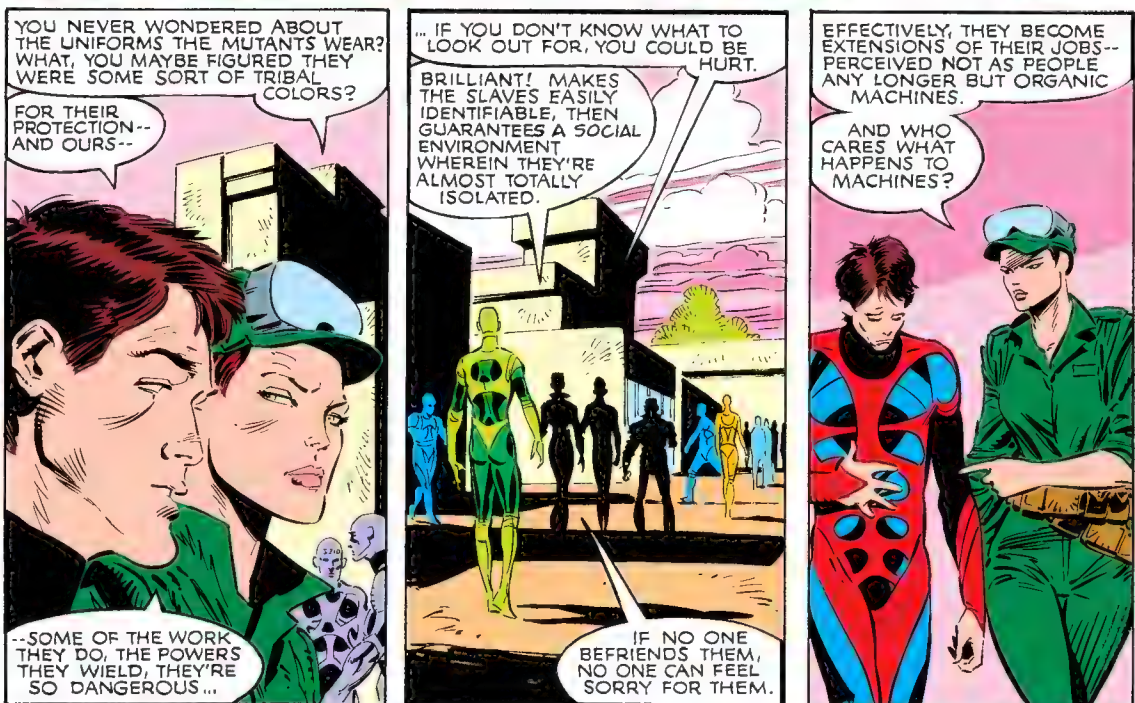
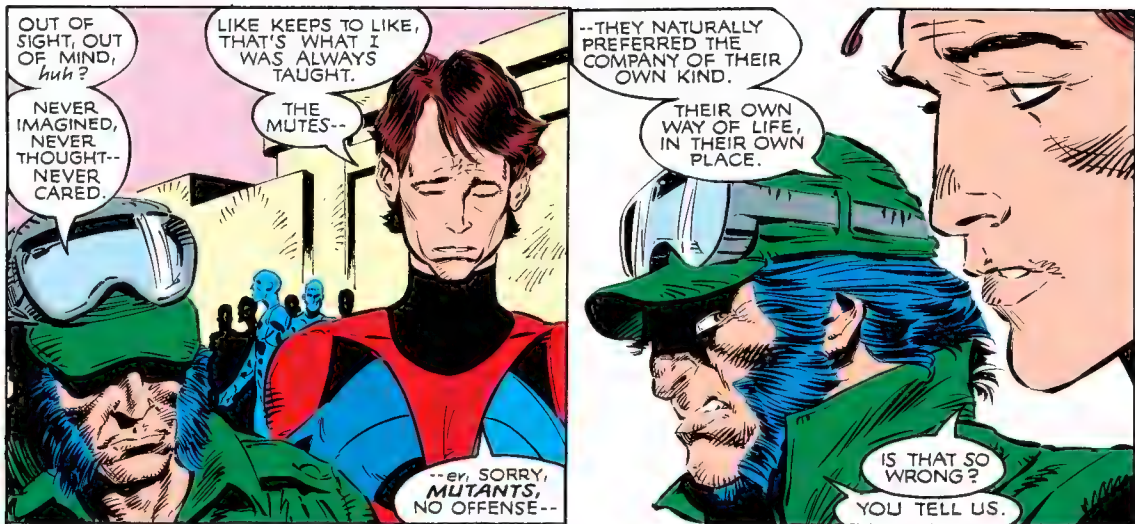
WE DO NOT QUESTION THE COURSE OF OUR LIVES...

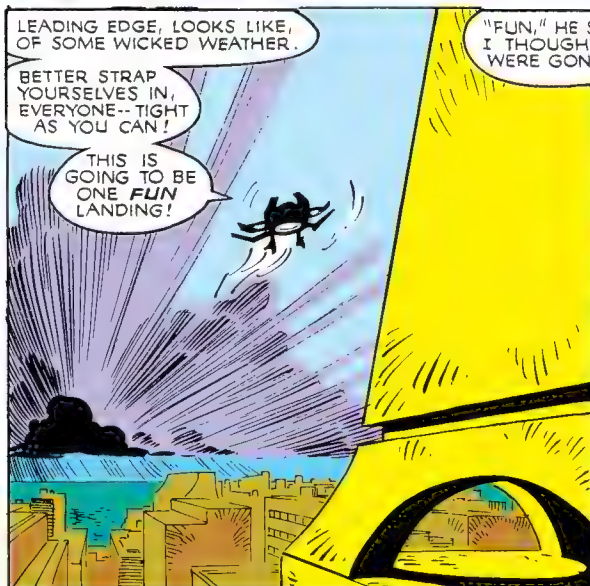
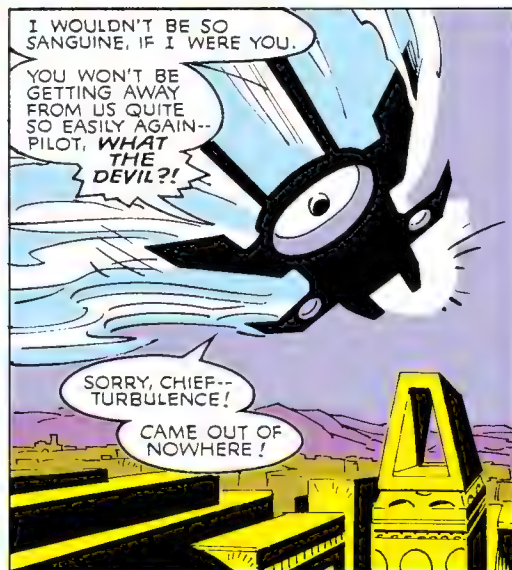
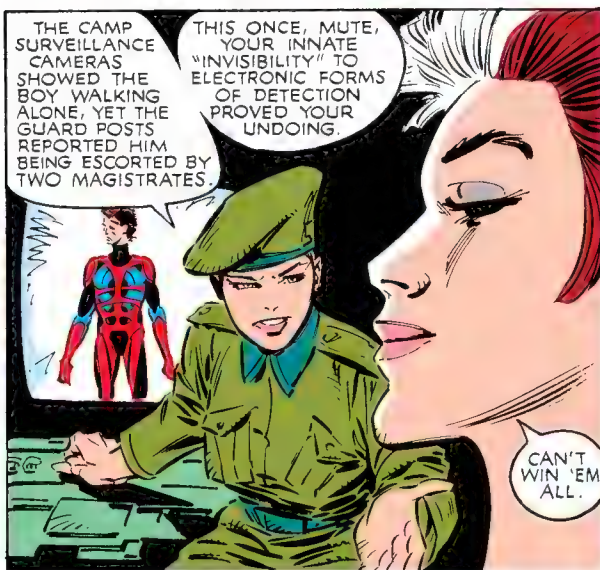
...WE REMAIN TRUE TO IT.

AND MAKE WHATEVER SACRIFICES ARE REQUIRED OF US.

WE HAVE WORD OF YOUR SON.









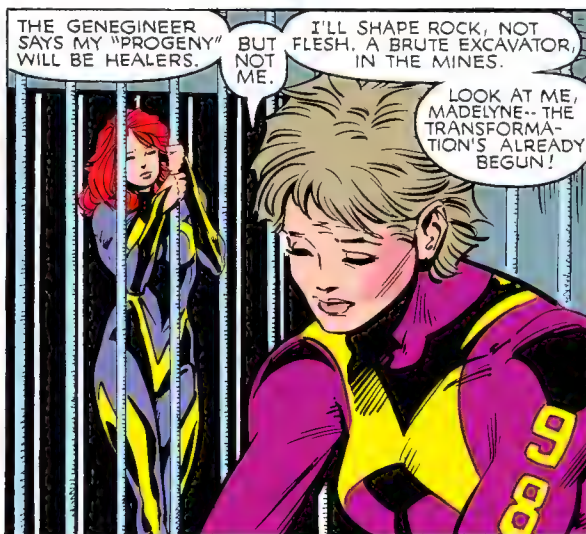
MEANWHILE,
DOWN BELOW...

ALL I WANTED WAS TO HELP
PEOPLE, TO SAVE LIVES.

THERE'S NO
NEED HERE--
THE HEALERS
TAKE CARE OF
THAT--

--SO I EMIGRATED
TO AUSTRALIA AND
JOINED THE FLYING
DOCTOR SERVICE.

I THOUGHT,
AS A NURSE, I
COULD MAKE A
DIFFERENCE,
BE OF REAL
SERVICE!

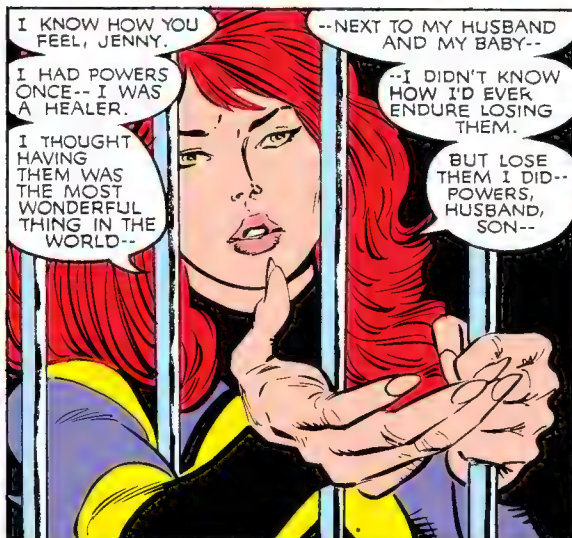


THE GENENGINEER
SAYS MY "PROGENY"
WILL BE HEALERS.

BUT
NOT
ME.

I'LL SHAPE ROCK, NOT
FLESH. A BRUTE EXCAVATOR,
IN THE MINES.

LOOK AT ME,
MADELYNE-- THE
TRANSFORMA-
TION'S ALREADY
BEGUN!



I KNOW HOW YOU
FEEL, JENNY.

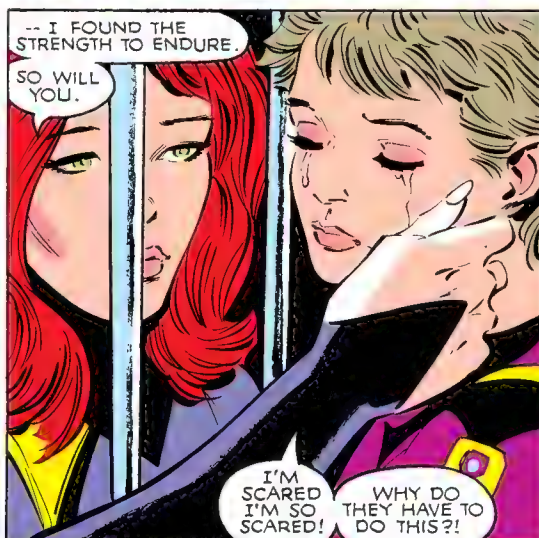
I HAD POWERS
ONCE-- I WAS
A HEALER.

I THOUGHT
HAVING
THEM WAS
THE MOST
WONDERFUL
THING IN THE
WORLD--

--NEXT TO MY HUSBAND
AND MY BABY--

--I DIDN'T KNOW
HOW I'D EVER
ENDURE LOSING
THEM.

BUT LOSE
THEM I DID--
POWERS,
HUSBAND,
SON--



-- I FOUND THE
STRENGTH TO ENDURE.

SO WILL
YOU.

I'M
SCARED
I'M SO
SCARED!

WHY DO
THEY HAVE TO
DO THIS?!



MUTANT
9-8-1-7;
TIME FOR
ANOTHER
SESSION.

I HAVE
A
NAME!

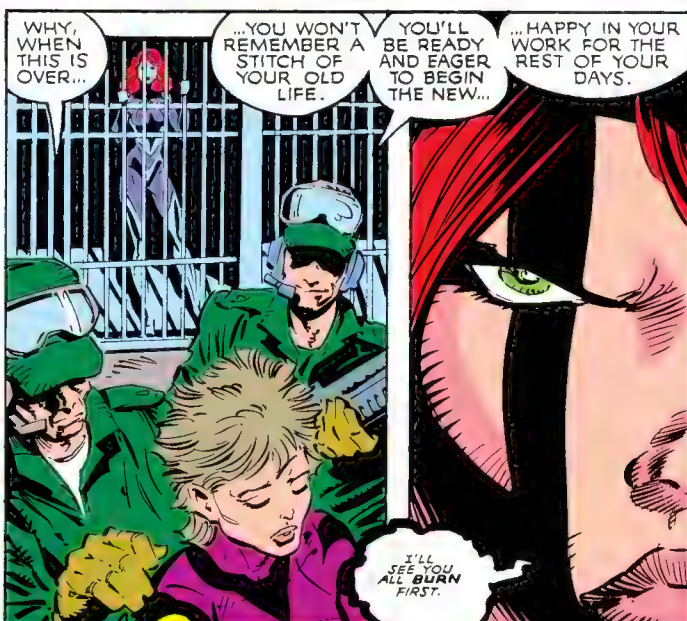
NOT
ANYMORE.

NO.

I'M
JENNIFER
RANSOME!

DON'T
LOOK
SO SAD,
GIRL.

IT'S NOT
SO BAD AS
YOU THINK.



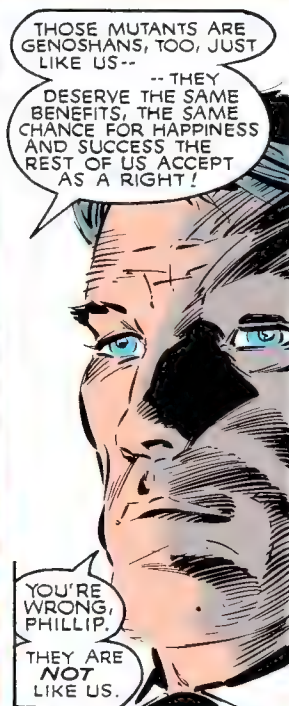
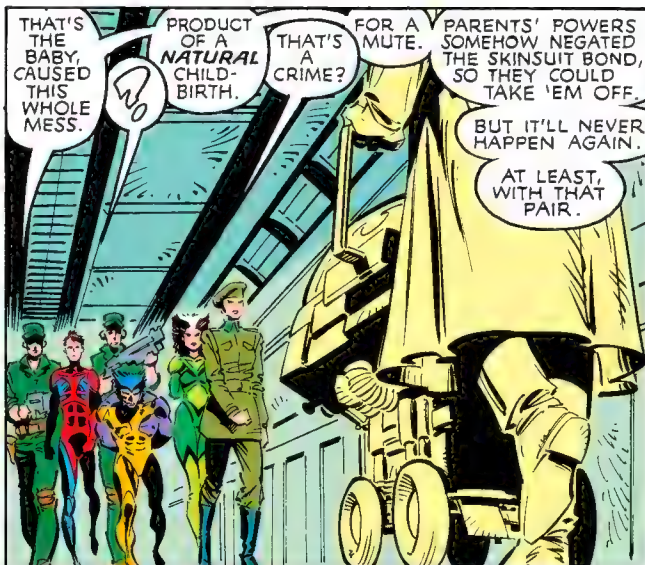
WHY,
WHEN
THIS IS
OVER...

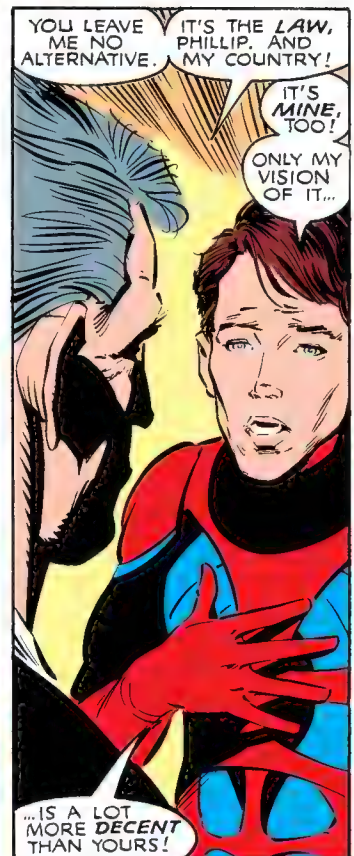
...YOU WON'T
REMEMBER A
STITCH OF
YOUR OLD
LIFE.

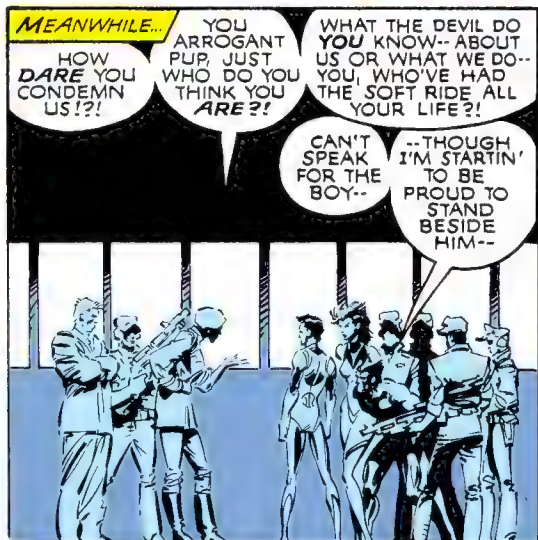
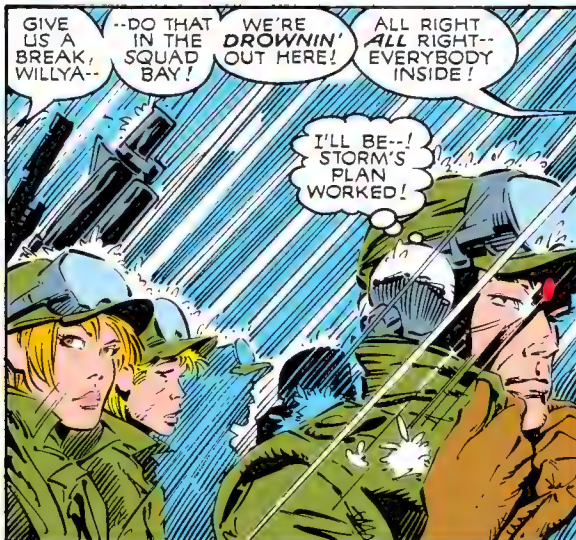
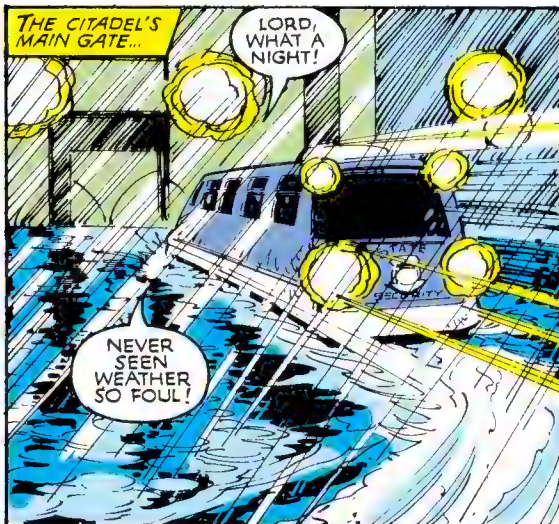
YOU'LL
BE READY
AND EAGER
TO BEGIN
THE NEW...

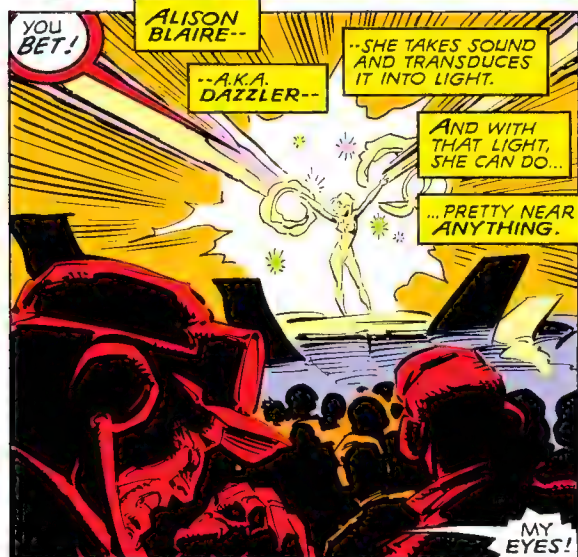
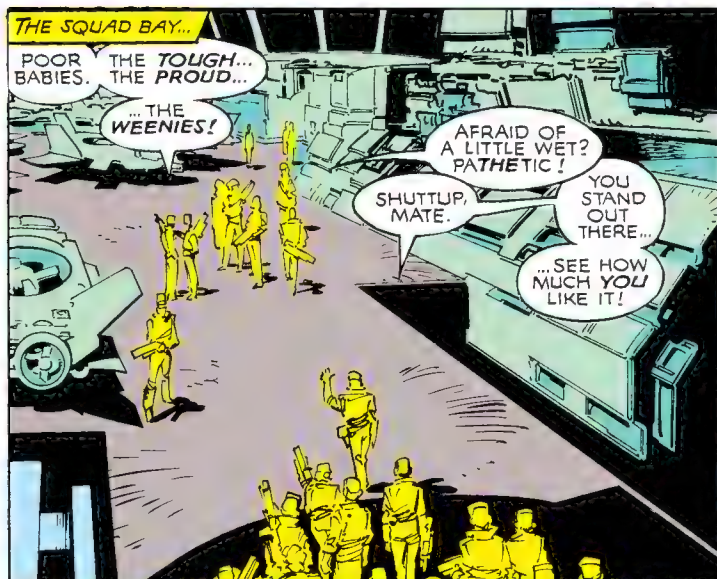
...HAPPY IN YOUR
WORK FOR THE
REST OF YOUR
DAYS.

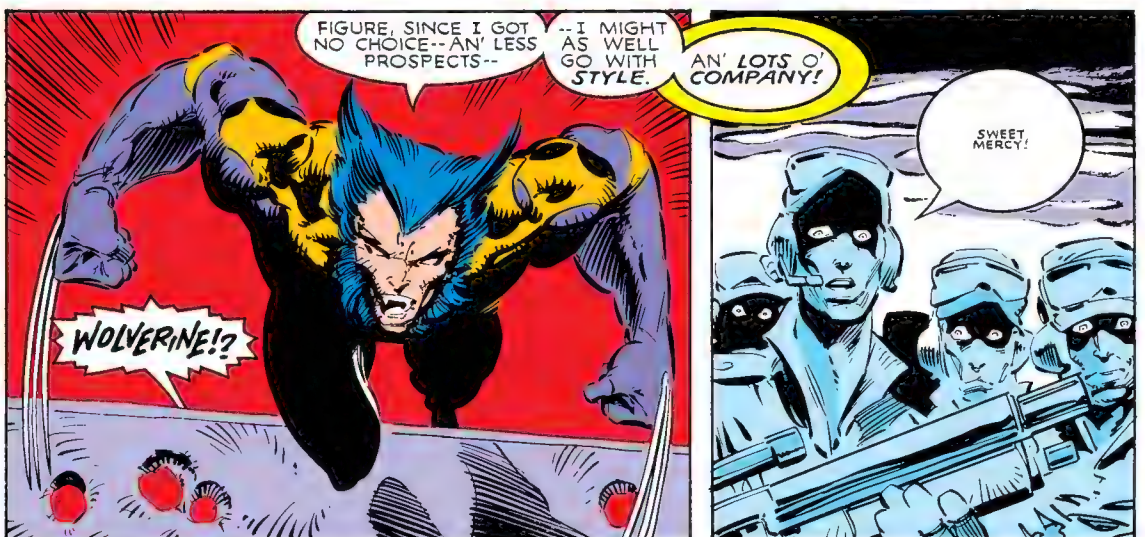
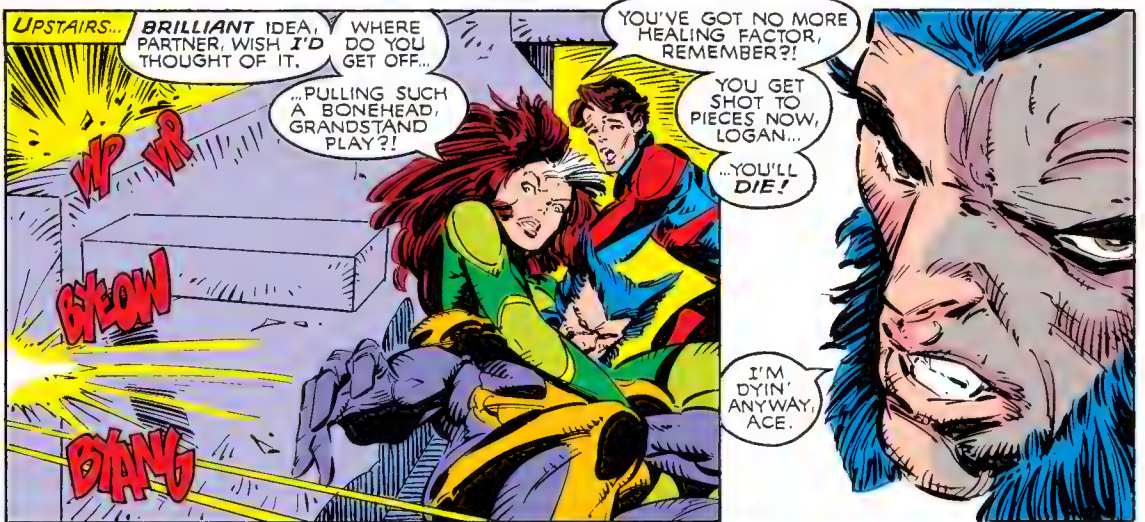
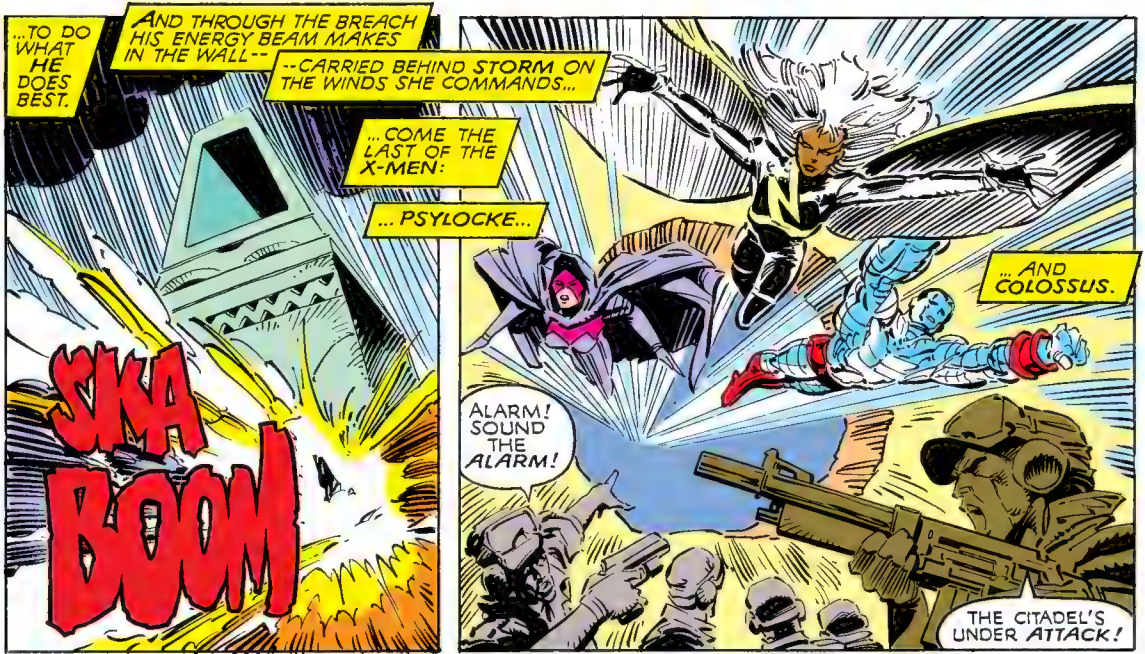
I'LL
SEE YOU
ALL BURN
FIRST.

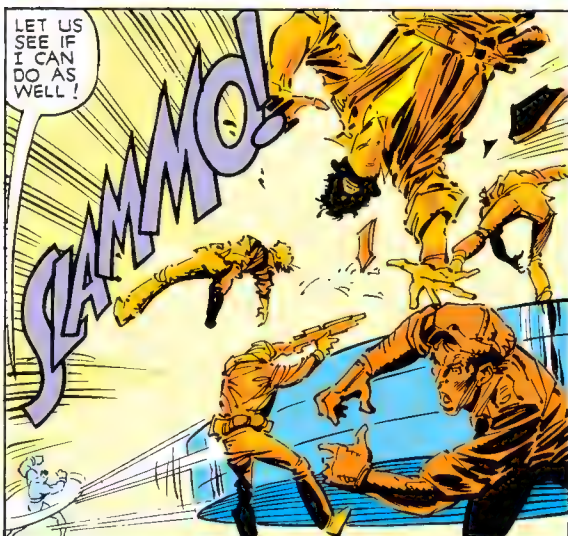
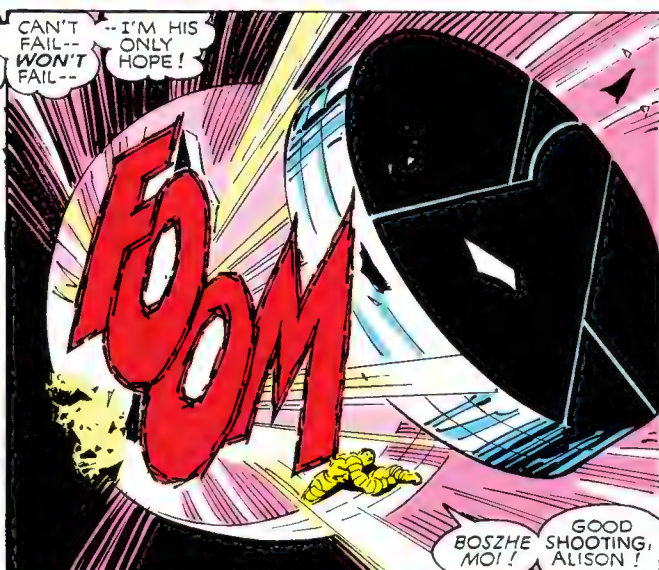
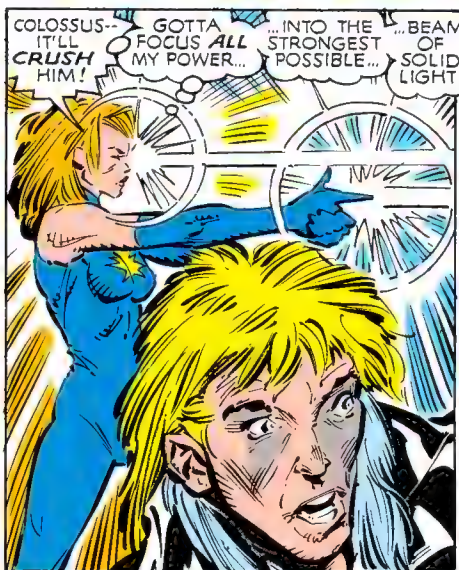
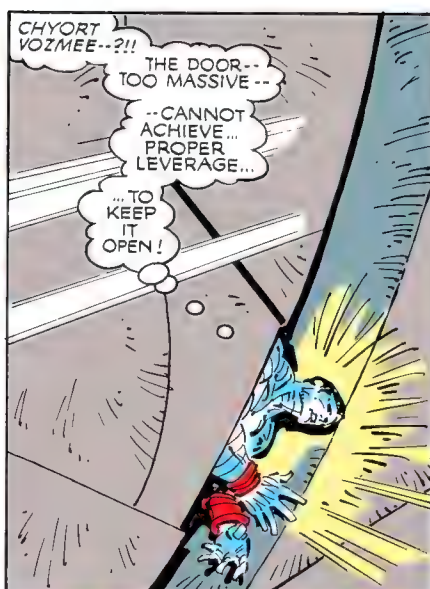
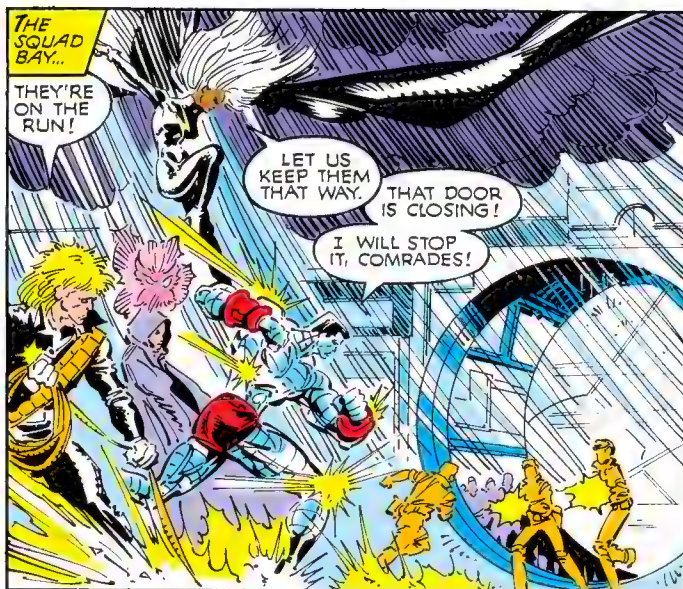


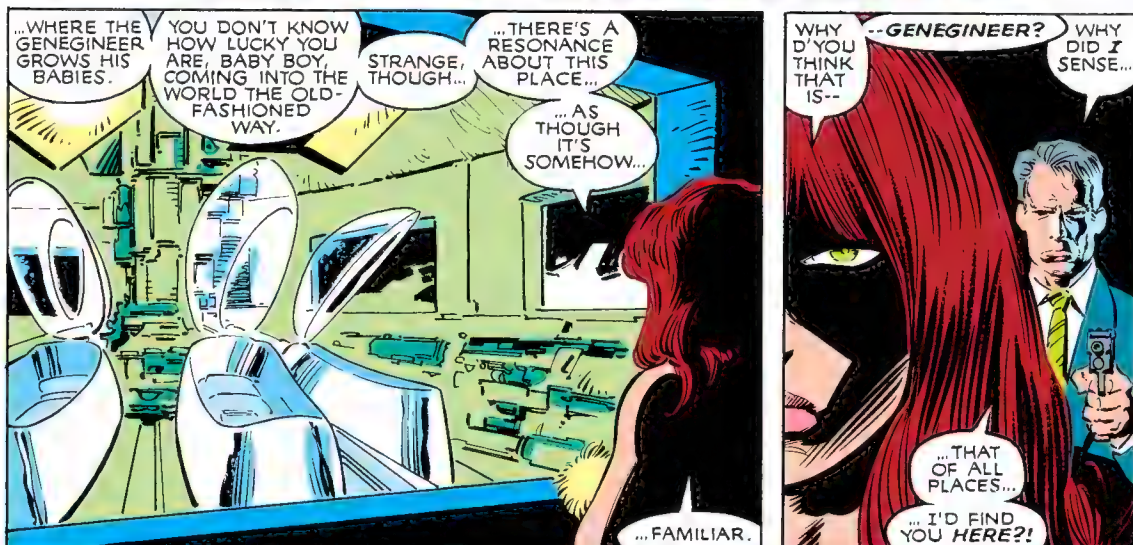
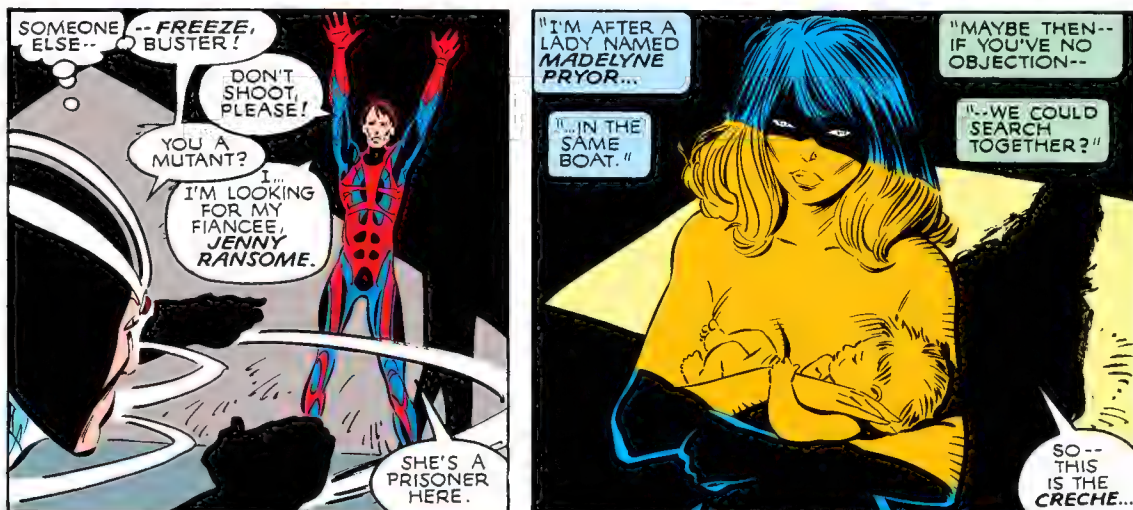
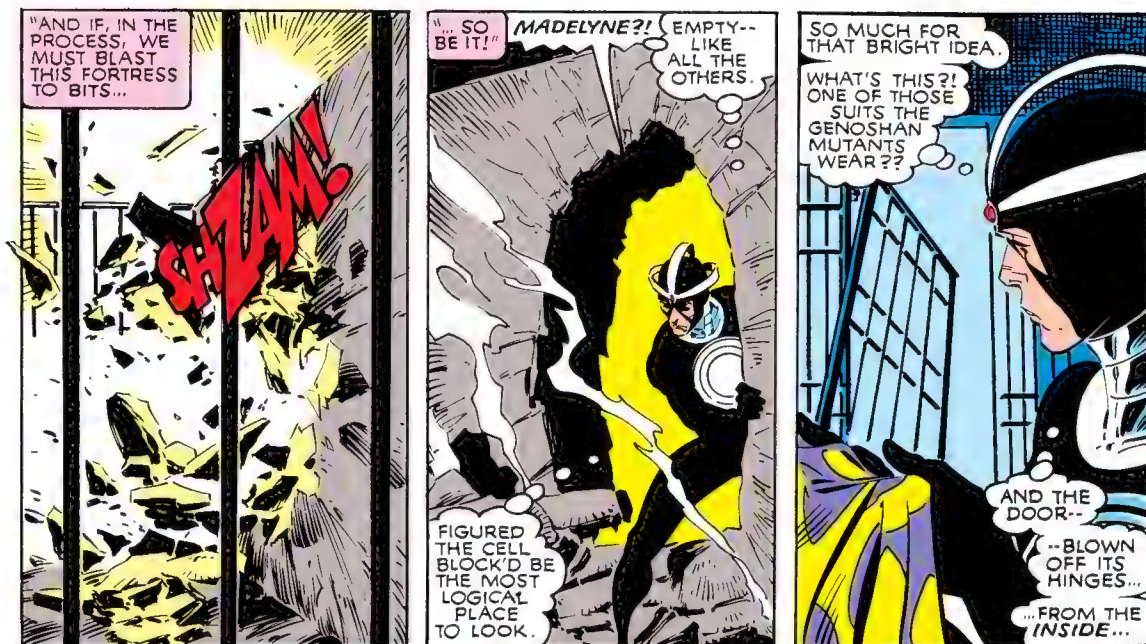


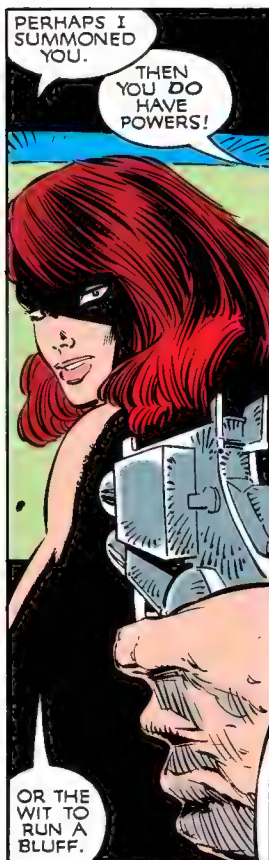












PERHAPS I SUMMONED YOU.

THEN YOU DO HAVE POWERS!

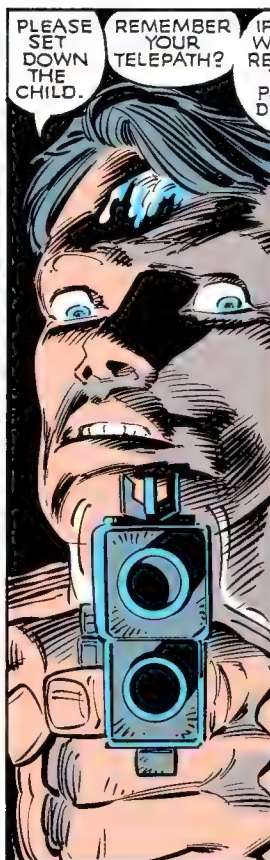
OR THE WIT TO RUN A BLUFF.



AND THE SKILL TO MAKE IT CONVINCING.

I SHOULD HAVE ORDERED YOUR TERMINATION AT THE FIRST SIGH OF TROUBLE!

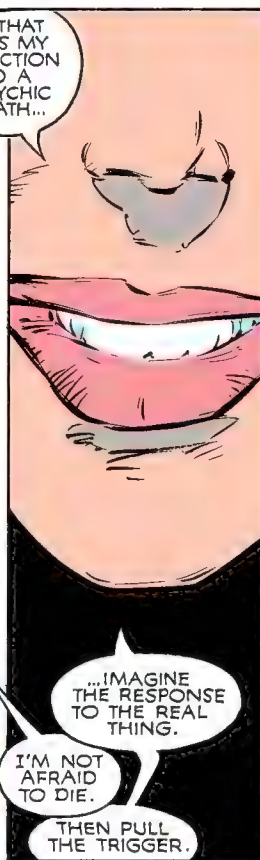
AN OVERSIGHT I'LL GLADLY REMEDY MYSELF!



PLEASE SET DOWN THE CHILD.

REMEMBER YOUR TELEPATH?

IF THAT WAS MY REACTION TO A PSYCHIC DEATH...



...IMAGINE THE RESPONSE TO THE REAL THING.

I'M NOT AFRAID TO DIE.

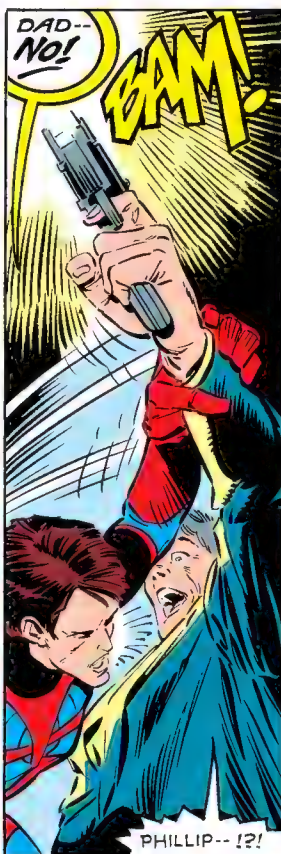
THEN PULL THE TRIGGER.



AND WE'LL FIND OUT...

...WHICH OF US IS BLUFFING...

... AND WHICH, TRULY BOUND FOR GLORY!



DAD-- No!

BAM!

PHILLIP-- !?!



MADELYNE--!

'BOUT TIME, LOVER.

I WAS BEGINNING TO WONDER...

...IF YOU'D FORGOTTEN ME.

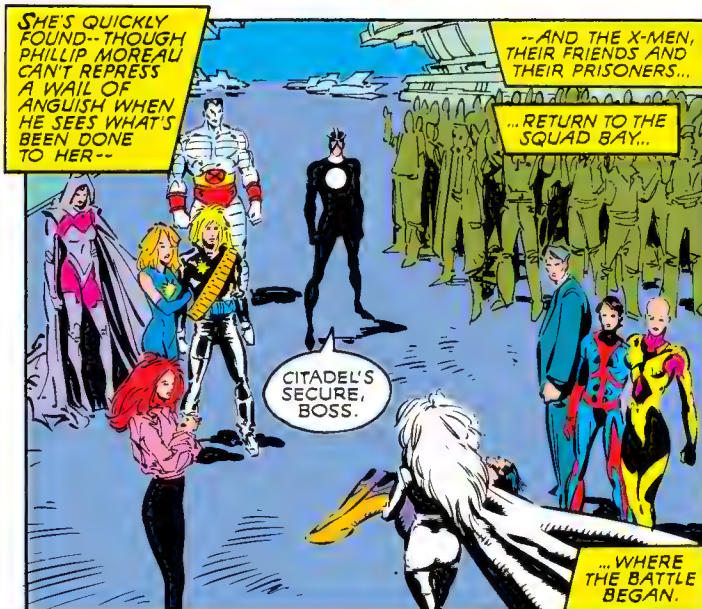
NEVER!

WHERE'S JENNY, DAD?!



TAKE US TO HER--OR SO ...I'LL HELP ME...

...I'LL USE THIS!



SHE'S QUICKLY FOUND--THOUGH PHILLIP MOREAU CAN'T REPRESS A WAIL OF ANGUISH WHEN HE SEES WHAT'S BEEN DONE TO HER--

--AND THE X-MEN, THEIR FRIENDS AND THEIR PRISONERS...

...RETURN TO THE SQUAD BAY...

CITADEL'S SECURE, BOSS.

...WHERE THE BATTLE BEGAN.



AT TOO HIGH A PRICE.
WE SHOULD HAVE BEEN HERE SOONER.

THERE'S THE BREAKS, DARLIN'.

I HAD A GOOD RUN.

IF THIS IS WHERE IT ENDS...

...AIN'T SUCH A BAD WAY TO GO.



YOU'RE NOT DEAD YET, SHORTY.

WIPEOUT HERE "ERASED" WOLVIE'S AND MY POWERS.

FOR HIS SAKE, THAT PROCESS BETTER BE REVERSIBLE.

OH IT IS, IT IS!

YOUR VOICE... AND MANNER ...?!!



ROGUE'S IN THE BACK SEAT.

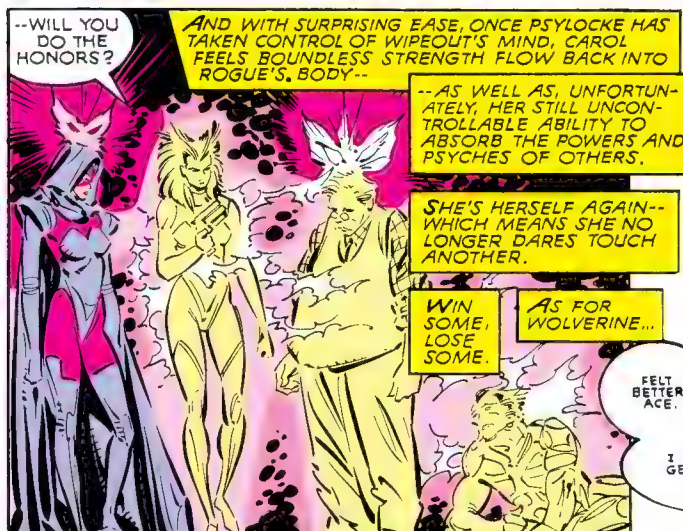
THIS IS THE CAROL DANVERS SIDE OF HER DUAL PERSONALITY, RUNNING THINGS.

...HOW CAN WE ENSURE HE WON'T TURN HIS POWER ON THE REST OF US?



WHO SAID I WAS GOING TO LET HIM USE IT?

PSYLOCKE--



--WILL YOU DO THE HONORS?

AND WITH SURPRISING EASE, ONCE PSYLOCKE HAS TAKEN CONTROL OF WIPEOUT'S MIND, CAROL FEELS BOUNDLESS STRENGTH FLOW BACK INTO ROGUE'S BODY--

--AS WELL AS, UNFORTUNATELY, HER STILL UNCONTROLLABLE ABILITY TO ABSORB THE POWERS AND PSYCHES OF OTHERS.

SHE'S HERSELF AGAIN--WHICH MEANS SHE NO LONGER DARES TOUCH ANOTHER.

WIN SOME, LOSE SOME.

AS FOR WOLVERINE...

FEEL BETTER, ACE.

BUT NOW I KNOW I'LL GET TO FEEL BETTER...



...I FEEL GREAT!



WHAT ABOUT THE GENENGINEER AND HIS MAGISTRATES?

KILL 'EM!

TEAR THIS SLIMEBALL CONCENTRATION CAMP COUNTRY O' THEIRS DOWN TO THE BARE ROCK...

...AN' BUILD SOMETHIN' DECENT FROM THE ASHES.



YOU CAN'T!

WATCH ME.

THAT ISN'T THE WAY. WE HAVE TO GIVE THE PEOPLE A CHANCE--TO SET THINGS RIGHT.

TELL THEM WHAT I'VE SEEN AND LEARNED, THEY'LL BE AS REVOLTED AS I WAS.

THEY'LL DO WHAT YOU WANT...



...WITHOUT HAVING TO BE COERCED.

YOU'RE A DREAMER, BOY.

POWER STRUCTURE'S GOT EVERYTHING TO LOSE BY YIELDING...

...AN' NOTHING TO GAIN--

--THEY'LL SQUASH YOU.

ALL YOU'LL BE DOING...

... IS POSTPONING THAT FINAL CONFRONTATION...



...AN' PROBABLY MAKING IT A WHOLE LOT WORSE.

PERHAPS SO-- BUT I HAVE TO TRY.

THIS IS MY COUNTRY. I HAVE TO BELIEVE IN IT.

YOU HAVE TO GIVE US THE CHANCE.



EVERYONE-- OUTSIDE!

GOTTA GIVE THE KID CREDIT FOR GUTS.

FEEL SORRY FOR HIM, ACE.

DOESN'T DESERVE...

...WHAT'LL HAPPEN TO HIM.



GENENGINEER-- CHIEF MAGISTRATE-- GENOSHANS--

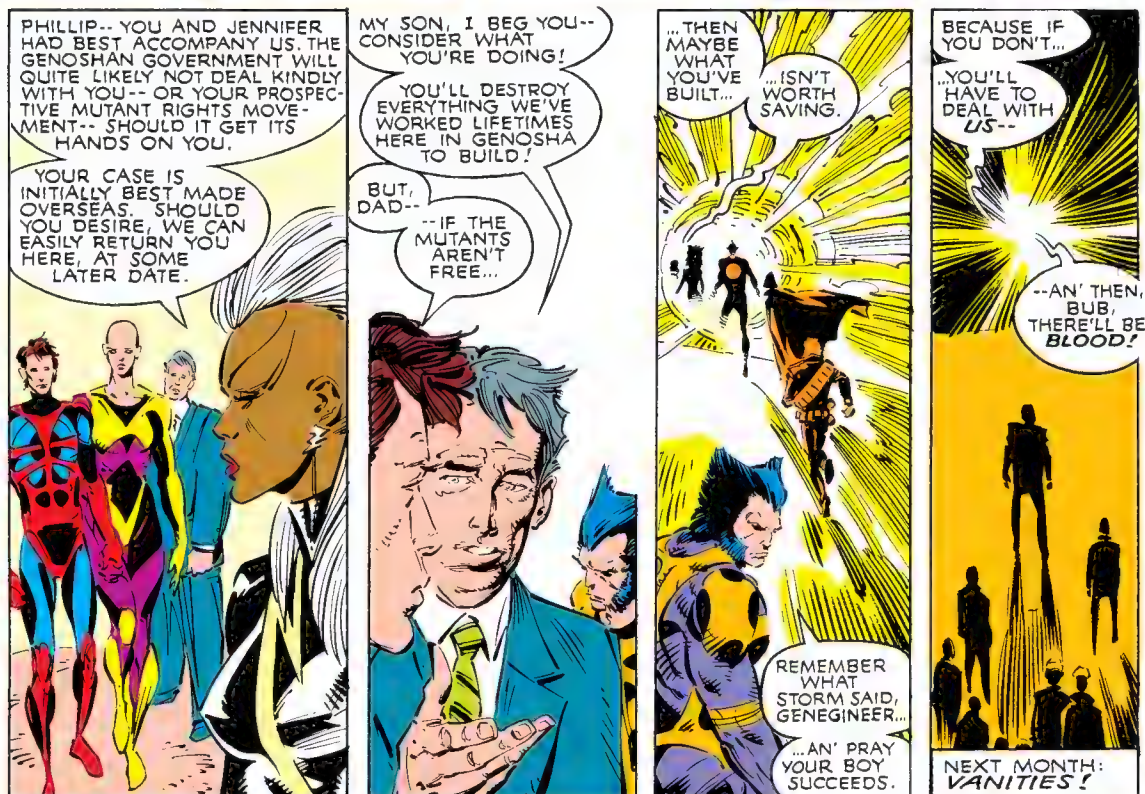
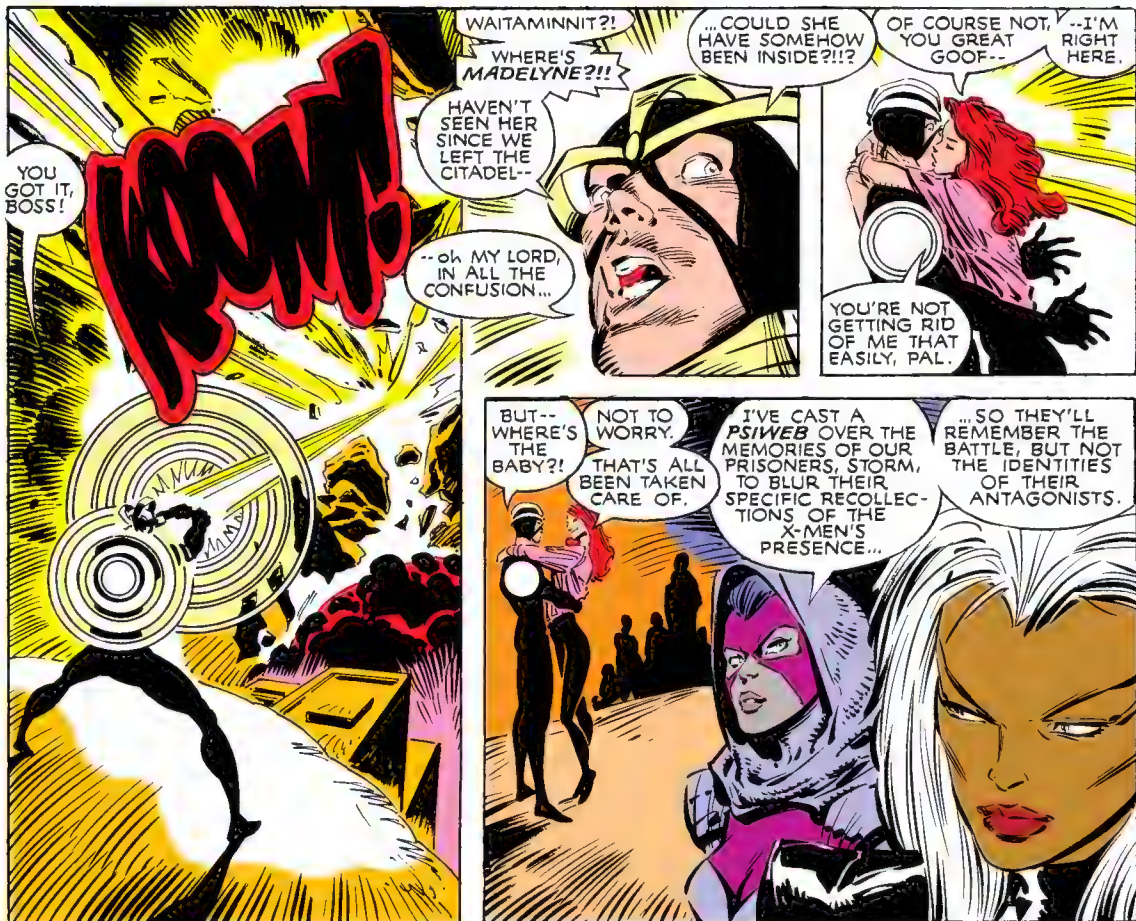
--LISTEN TO THE BOY!

HE IS ONE FUTURE...

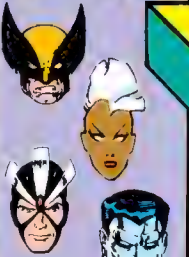
...WE ARE THE OTHER.

AND IF YOU HAVE ANY DOUBT ABOUT WHAT THAT MEANS--

--HAVOK, THE CITADEL!



MARVEL



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BY THE
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AUTHORITY

THE UNCANNY

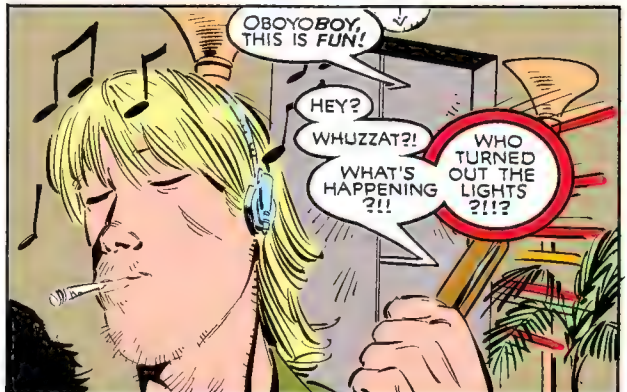
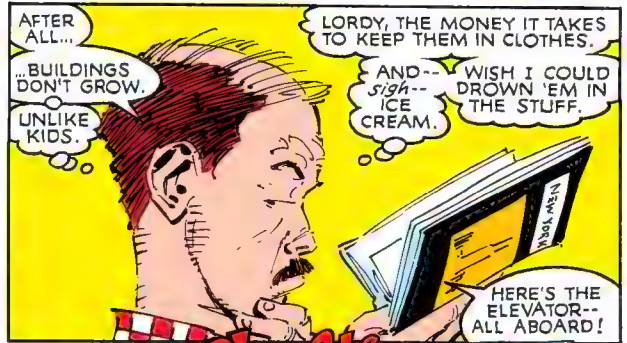
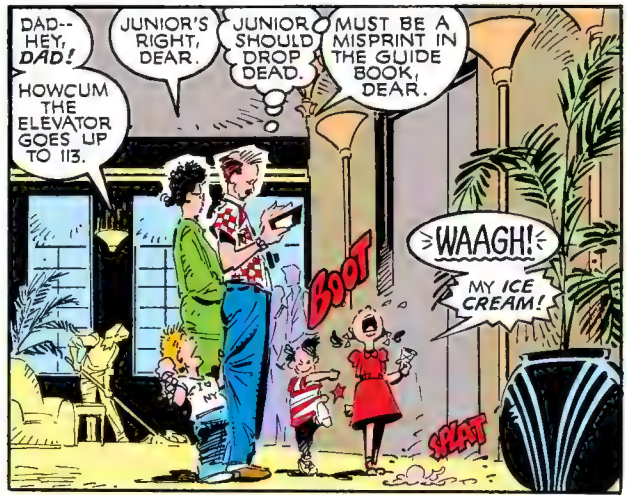
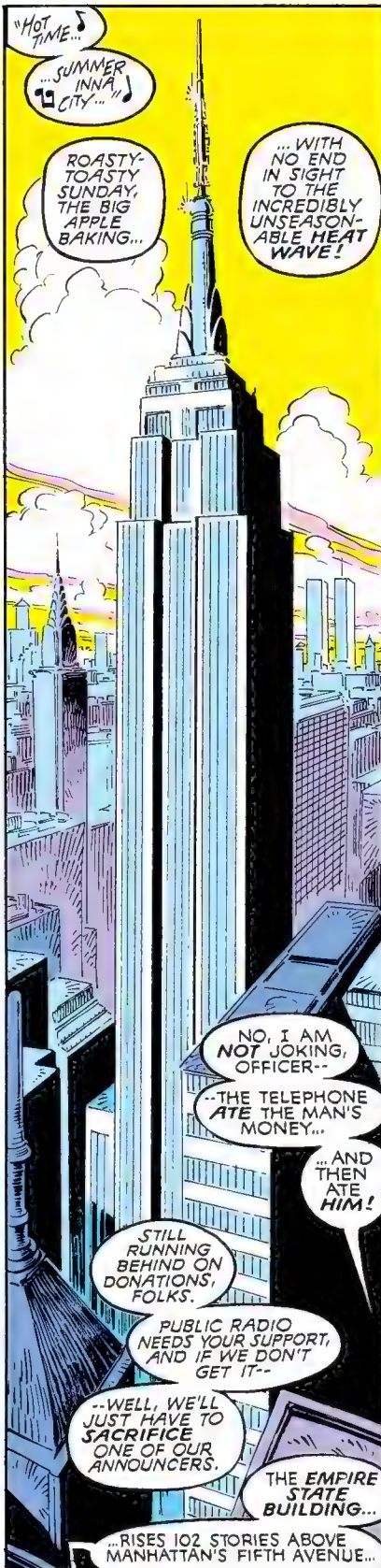
X-MEN

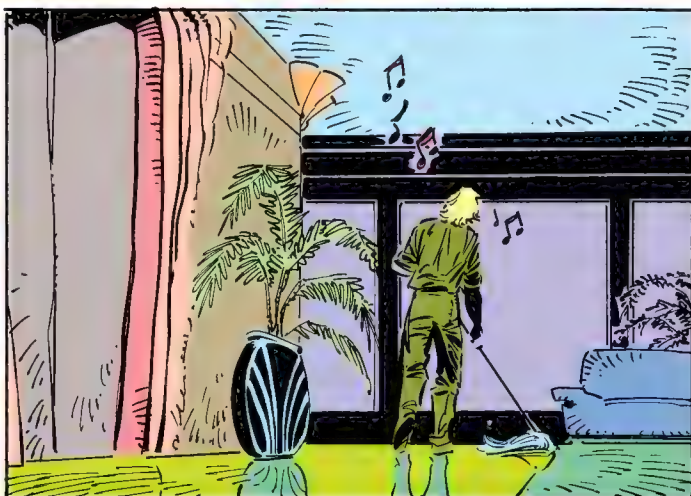
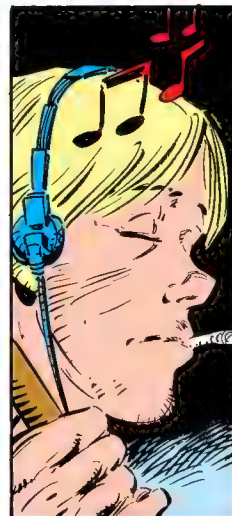
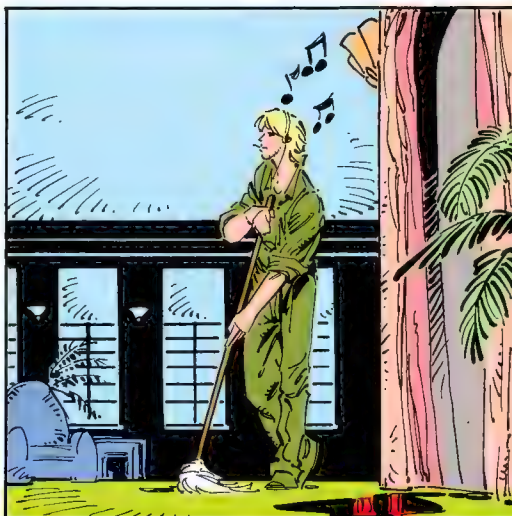
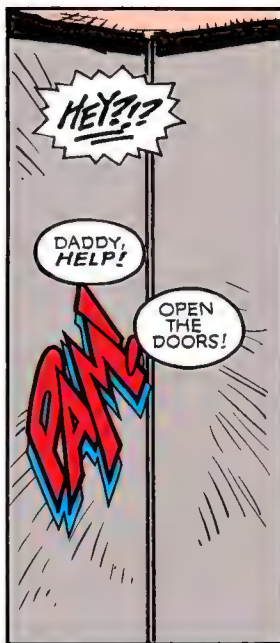
SINISTER
SCHEMES..

IGNITE
INFERNO™



SHADE GREEN





ANOTHER
PLACE.

ANOTHER
DAY.

ANOTHER
MAN.

MR. SINISTER, BY NAME--

--WHO, HERE IN HIS COMMAND POST, HAS THE ENTIRE WORLD AT HIS FINGERTIPS. IT'S SAID INFORMATION IS POWER. IF SO, THEN CONCEIVABLY, HE HAS IT ALL. ACCESS TO ANYONE, ANYWHERE, ANYTIME.

FROM THE MOMENT I LEARNED OF YOUR EXISTENCE, X-MEN...

...I KNEW OUR PATHS WOULD CROSS AS ADVERSARIES.

THE EARTH IS GROWING TOO SMALL-- TOO CROWDED-- FOR MUTANTS AND HUMANS TO POSSIBLY CO-EXIST.

THE DAY OF HOMO SAPIENS IS DONE.

IT IS PAST TIME THE SPECIES WAS REMOVED FROM THE EVOLUTIONARY STAGE, TO MAKE WAY FOR THEIR BETTERS.

I ALWAYS ASSUMED YOU-- HUMANITY'S SELF-APPOINTED CHAMPIONS, EVEN THOUGH THEY BRANDED YOU OUTLAW AND OUTCAST--

--WOULD BE THERE TO OPPOSE ME.

IT'S SAID A MAN IS MEASURED BY THE QUALITY OF HIS ENEMIES.

YOU WERE THE BEST.

HOW I WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO THAT ULTIMATE TEST OF WITS AND SKILL AND STRENGTH.

BUT NOW-- NO THANKS TO ME-- YOU ARE DEAD.

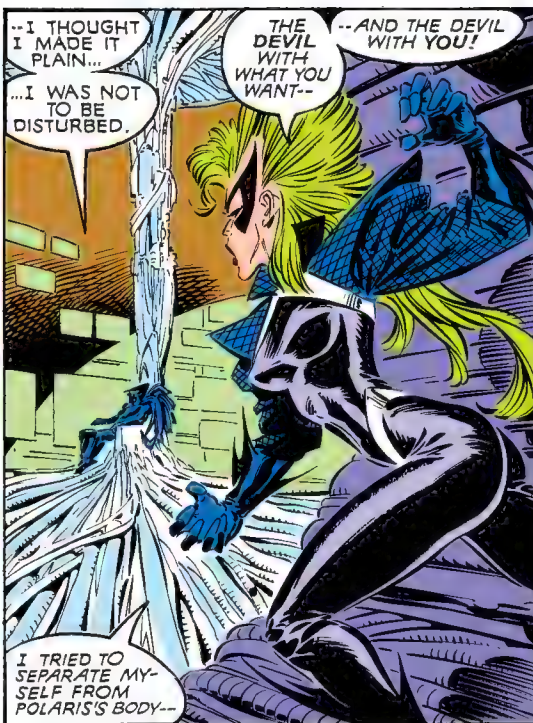


I FEEL CHEATED. AND, SOMEHOW...

SINISTER!

...DIMINISHED.

MALICE--



--I THOUGHT I MADE IT PLAIN...

...I WAS NOT TO BE DISTURBED.

THE DEVIL WITH WHAT YOU WANT--

--AND THE DEVIL WITH YOU!

I TRIED TO SEPARATE MYSELF FROM POLARIS'S BODY--



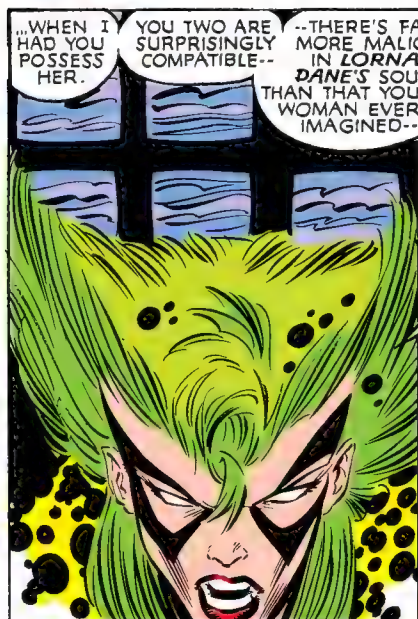
--ONLY I COULDN'T!

THE PSYCHIC BOND BETWEEN US...

...IS AS UNBREAKABLE...

...AS IT IS PERMANENT.

I SUSPECTED AS MUCH...



...WHEN I HAD YOU POSSESS HER.

YOU TWO ARE SURPRISINGLY COMPATIBLE--

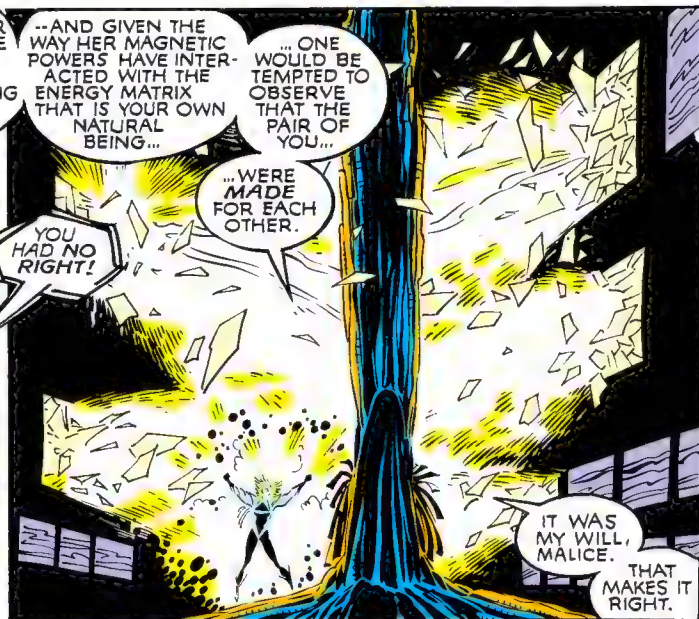
--THERE'S FAR MORE MALICE IN LORNA DANE'S SOUL THAN THAT YOUNG WOMAN EVER IMAGINED--

--AND GIVEN THE WAY HER MAGNETIC POWERS HAVE INTERACTED WITH THE ENERGY MATRIX THAT IS YOUR OWN NATURAL BEING...

...ONE WOULD BE TEMPTED TO OBSERVE THAT THE PAIR OF YOU...

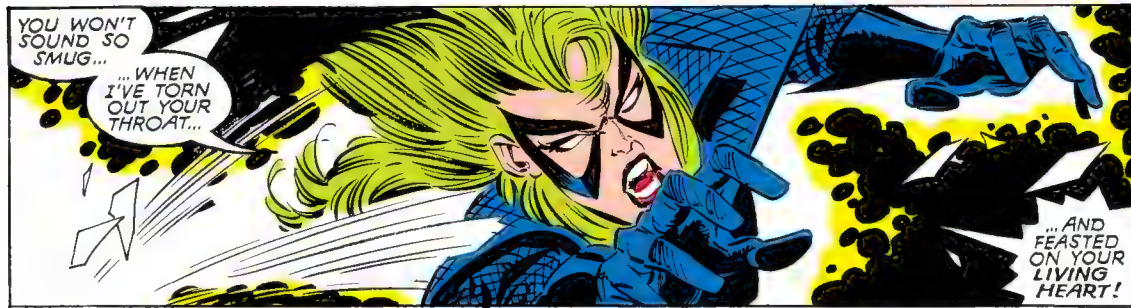
...WERE MADE FOR EACH OTHER.

YOU HAD NO RIGHT!



IT WAS MY WILL, MALICE.

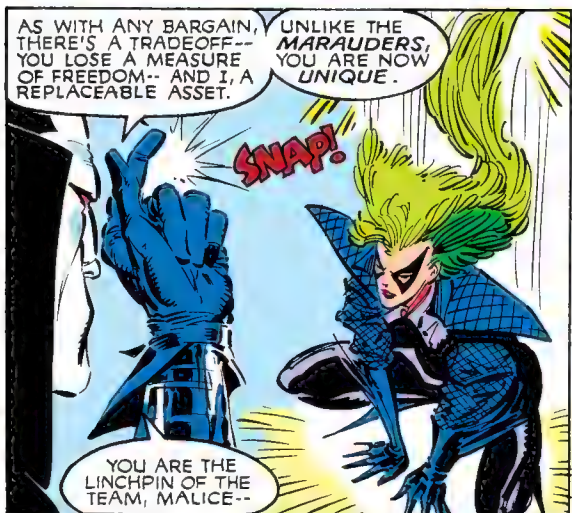
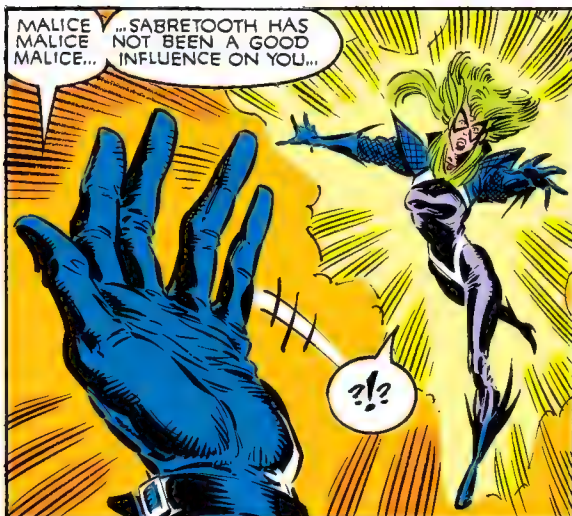
THAT MAKES IT RIGHT.

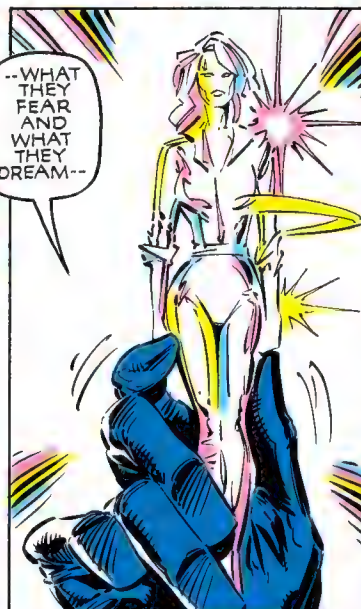
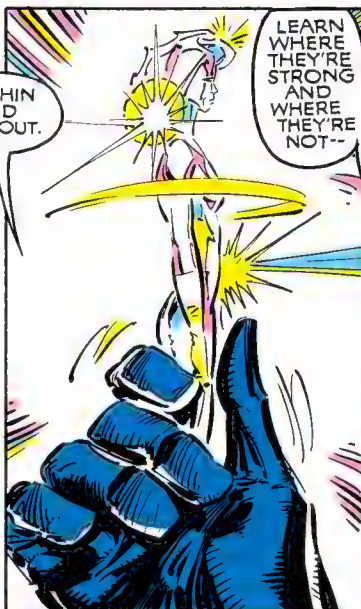
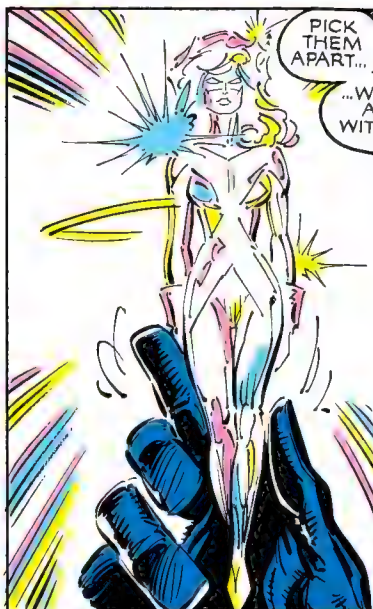
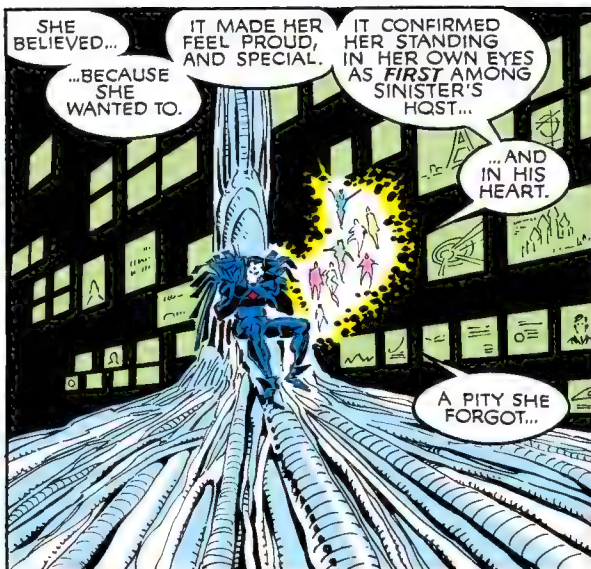


YOU WON'T SOUND SO SMUG...

...WHEN I'VE TORN OUT YOUR THROAT...

...AND FEASTED ON YOUR LIVING HEART!





STAN LEE
PRESENTS

Vanities

INFERNO'S PROLOGUE,
STARRING THE
UNCANNY X-MEN

SATURDAY
NIGHT.

AUSTRALIA.

MIDDLE OF
NOWHERE.

SHE DOESN'T
CARE.

ALISON
BLAIRE.

DAZZLER!

ON THE PROWL.

LOOKING FOR
ACTION.

HUNGRY FOR
SOME FUN!

DOGS

ARE NOT
ALLOWED
ON THE
PREMISE

BROUGHT TO YOU BY

CHRIS CLAREMONT

WRITER

MARC SILVESTRI

PENCILER

DAN GREEN

INKER

TOM ORZECOWSKI

LETTERER

GLYNIS OLIVER

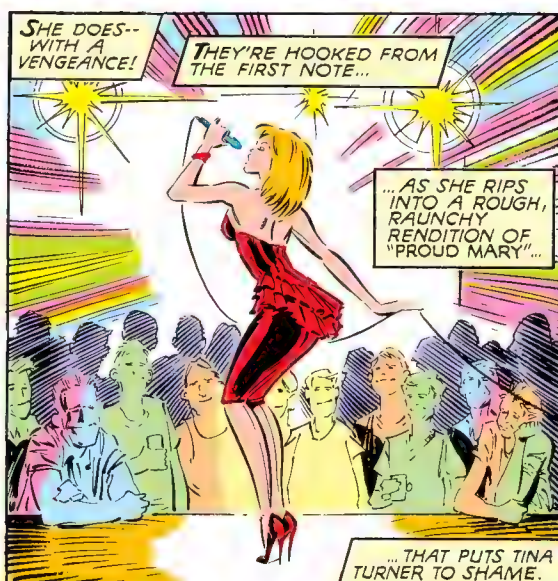
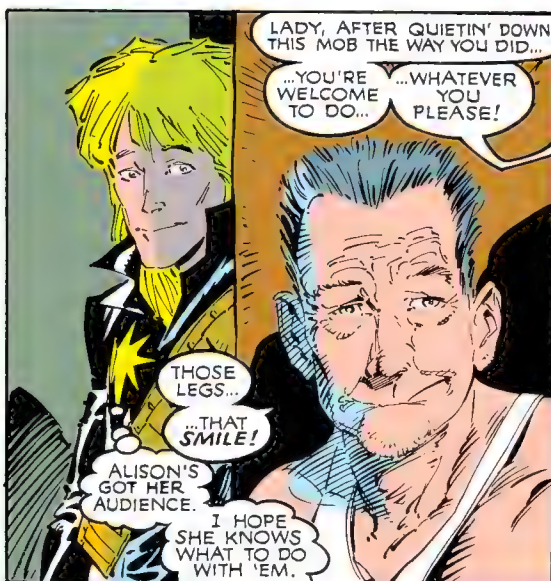
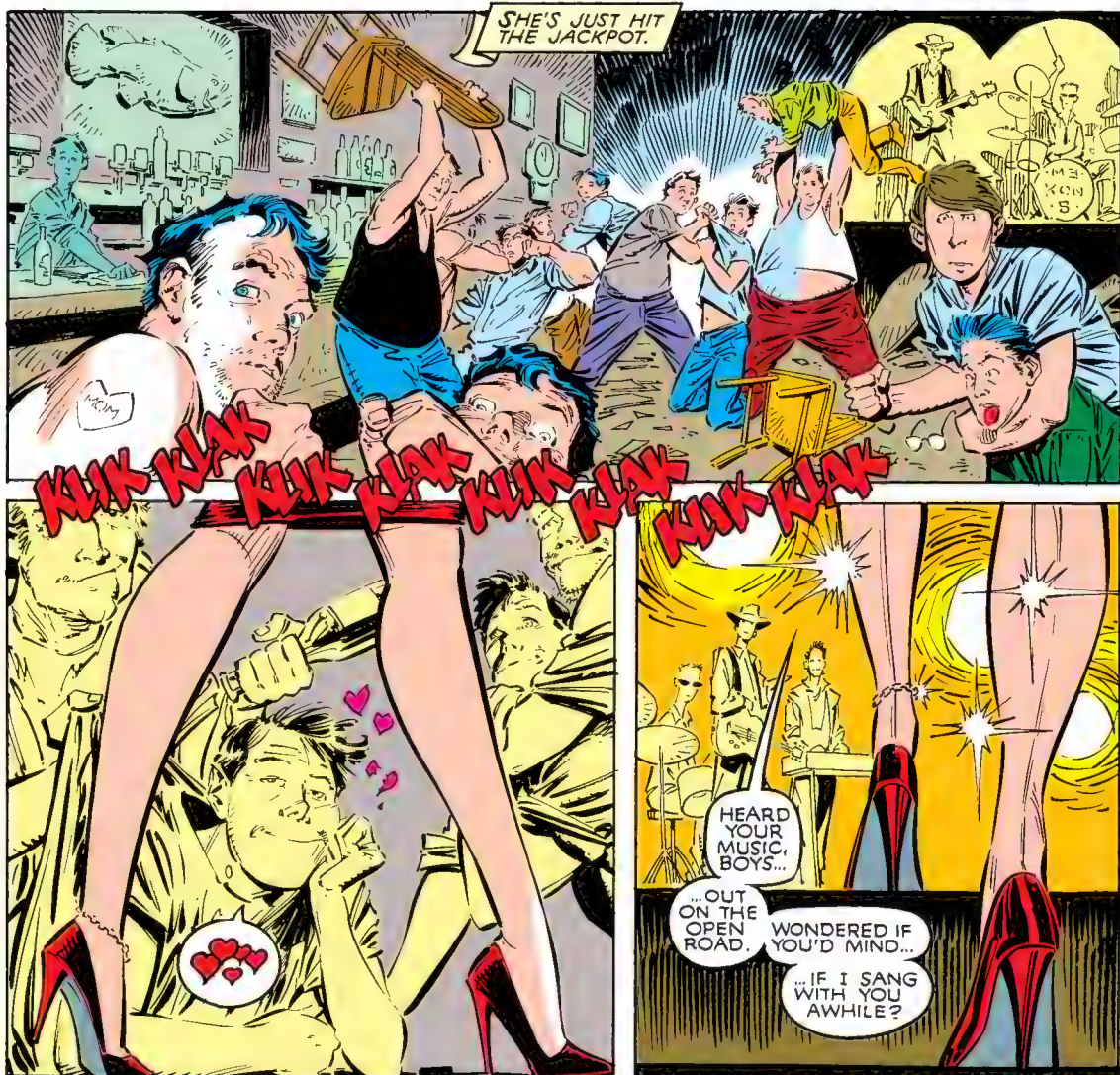
COLORIST

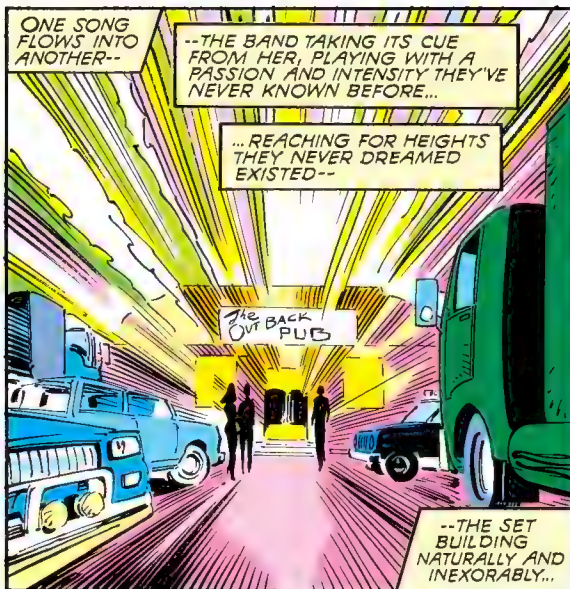
BOB HARRAS

EDITOR

TOM DeFALCO

BOUNCER





ONE SONG FLOWS INTO ANOTHER--

--THE BAND TAKING ITS CUE FROM HER, PLAYING WITH A PASSION AND INTENSITY THEY'VE NEVER KNOWN BEFORE...

...REACHING FOR HEIGHTS THEY NEVER DREAMED EXISTED--

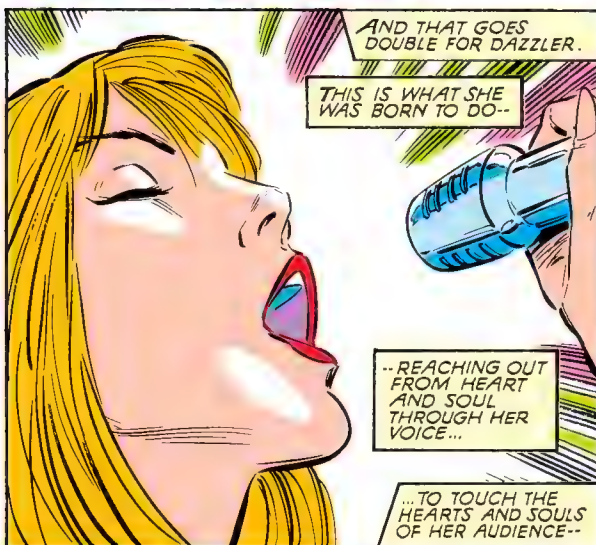
THE BACK OUTH PUB

--THE SET BUILDING NATURALLY AND INEXORABLY...



...TO A FEVER-PITCHED CRESCENDO OF EXCITEMENT.

NO ONE PRESENT CAN REMEMBER EVER HAVING HAD SO MUCH FUN.

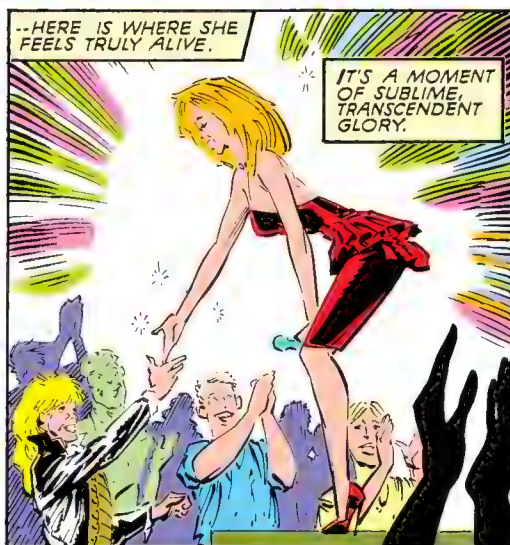


AND THAT GOES DOUBLE FOR DAZZLER.

THIS IS WHAT SHE WAS BORN TO DO--

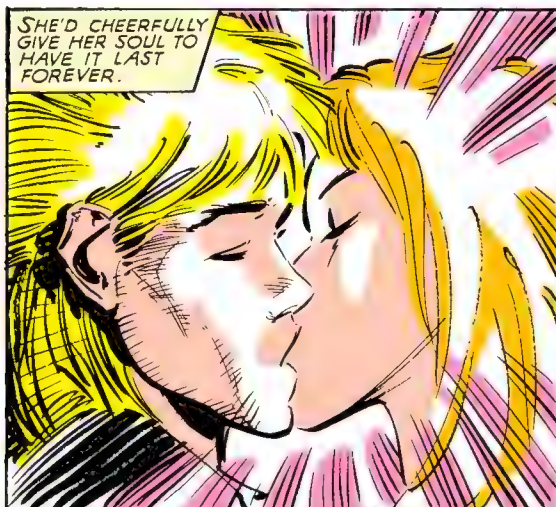
--REACHING OUT FROM HEART AND SOUL THROUGH HER VOICE...

...TO TOUCH THE HEARTS AND SOULS OF HER AUDIENCE--



--HERE IS WHERE SHE FEELS TRULY ALIVE.

IT'S A MOMENT OF SUBLIME, TRANSCENDENT GLORY.



SHE'D CHEERFULLY GIVE HER SOUL TO HAVE IT LAST FOREVER.



SNAP!



I NEVER CONSIDERED THE SONGBIRD A MAJOR PLAYER-- SHE WAS ALWAYS TOO INTERESTED IN HER CAREER.

BUT YOU, HAVOK, HAD SUCH POTENTIAL.

I KNEW THAT FROM THE FIRST--

--IN THOSE LONGAGO DAYS BEFORE YOU EVER HEARD THE WORD "MUTANT"...



"...OR SUSPECTED THE POWERS YOU POSSESSED."

LORD, I HURT.

GOOD.

MAKE THE PAIN WORK FOR YOU.

TO DRIVE THE BODY HARDER!



MEMORY. UNBIDDEN. UNWANTED.

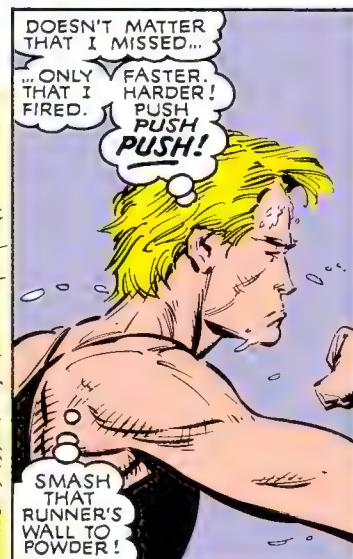
SAN FRANCISCO.

THE WOMAN HE LOVED...

ZARK!

...HAD TURNED BAD.

ONLY ONE CHANCE, ONE WAY, TO STOP HER.



DOESN'T MATTER THAT I MISSED...

...ONLY THAT I FIRED.

FASTER. HARDER! PUSH PUSH PUSH!

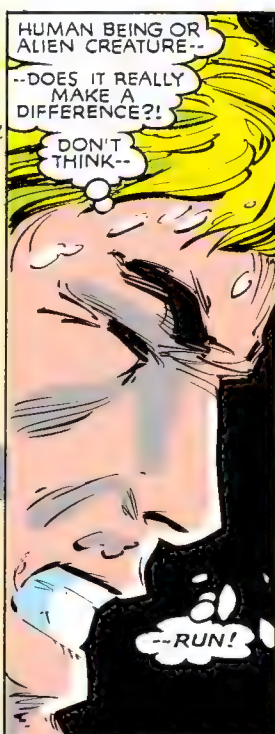
SMASH THAT RUNNER'S WALL TO POWDER!



DENVER-- NOT SO LONG AGO.

DIVE BOMBER HAD STORM.

IT WAS THE BROOD'S LIFE OR HERS.



HUMAN BEING OR ALIEN CREATURE--

--DOES IT REALLY MAKE A DIFFERENCE?!

DON'T THINK--

--RUN!

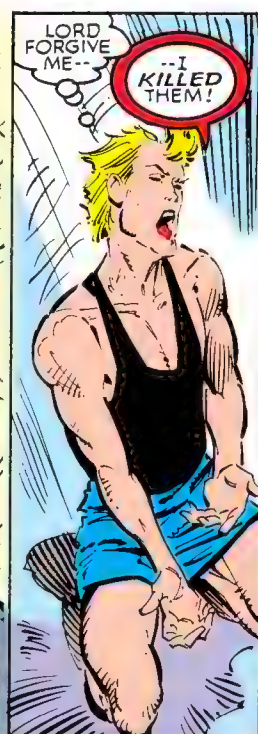


SAME NIGHT.

SAME FOES.

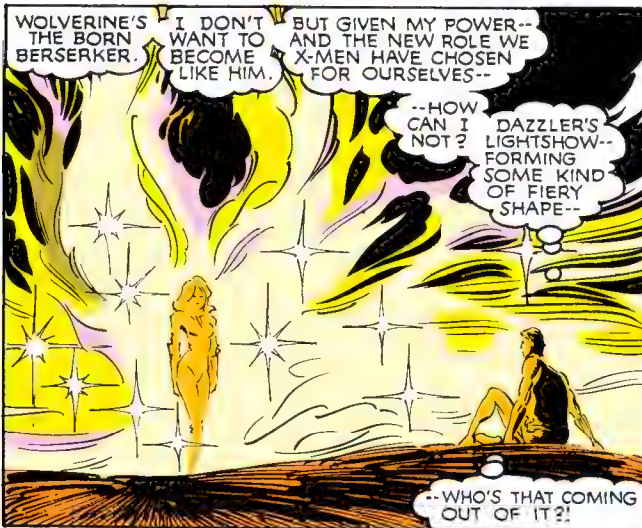
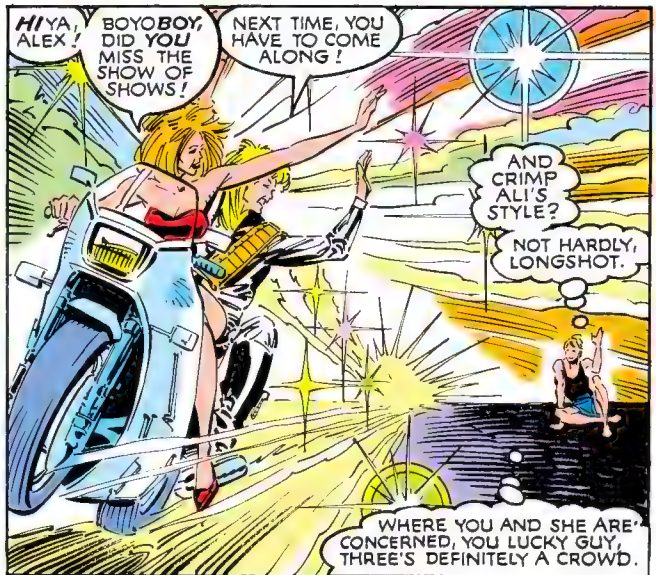
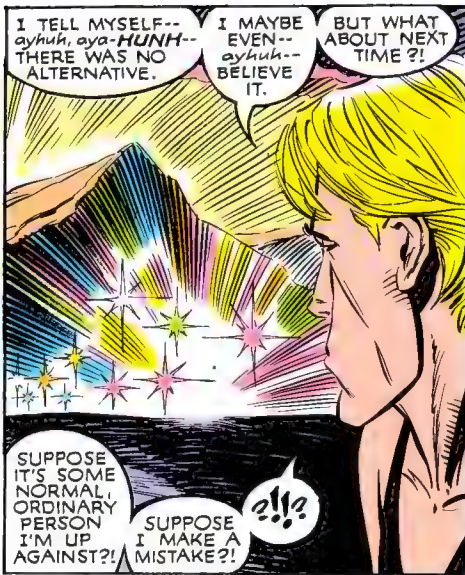
SAME SITUATION.

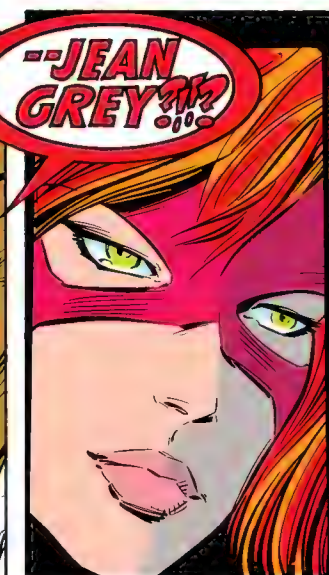
SAME DECISION.



LORD FORGIVE ME--

--I KILLED THEM!







AND WHAT OF THE
LITTLE WILD MAN...

...WHOSE ENTIRE
BEING IS GROUNDED
IN HIS SENSES...

...WHEN THOSE
SENSES
TELL HIM...

...WHAT
PATENTLY
CANNOT
BE
TRUE?



CRIPES!

TYPHOON
WIND--

--BLOWIN'
UP OUTTA
NOWHERE--

--MUST BE
STORM'S
DOIN'!



WILD WEATHER
TO MATCH--

--PRETTY FLAMIN'
IMPRESSIVE--

--SHE'S
PULLIN'
OUT
ALL THE
STOPS--

--WOMAN
MUST BE IN A
RIGHTEOUS
MOOD.



ALIVE!



I SAW HER,
LOGAN...

...ON THE
VIDEO
DISPLAY!

JEAN
GREY IS
ALIVE!!

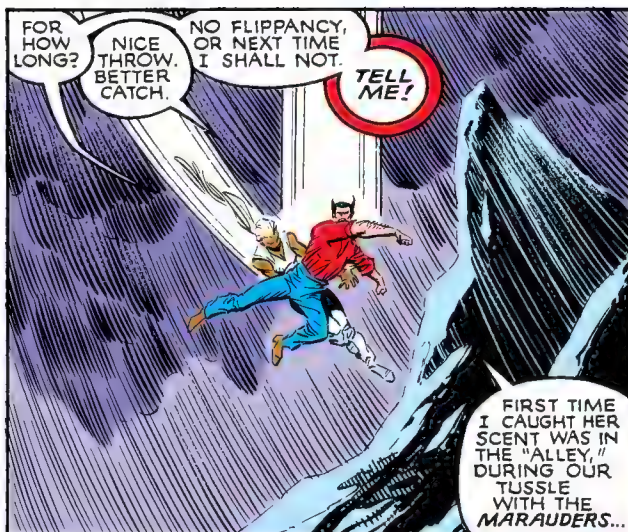
YES.

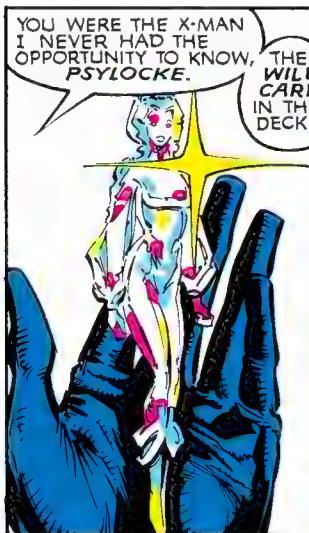


YOU
KNEW--

YES.

--AND
NEVER
TOLD
ME?!!





YOU WERE THE X-MAN I NEVER HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO KNOW, **PSYLOCKE**.

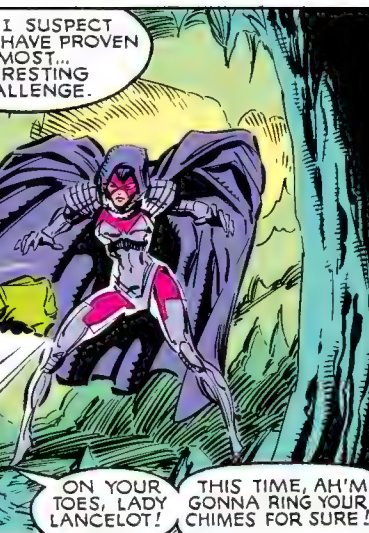
THE **WILD CARD** IN THE DECK...



...OUTWARDLY THE PERFECT, GENTEEL, UPPER-CLASS LADY--

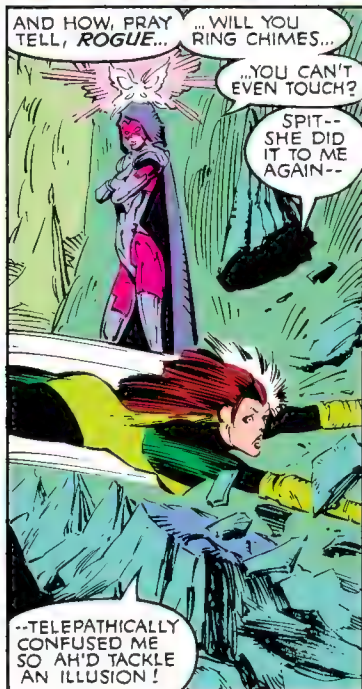
--AND YET, YOU FACED **SABRETOOTH** ON YOUR OWN AND SURVIVED, NO MEAN FEAT.

PITY. I SUSPECT YOU'D HAVE PROVEN A MOST... INTERESTING CHALLENGE.



ON YOUR TOES, LADY LANCELOT!

THIS TIME, AH'M GONNA RING YOUR CHIMES FOR SURE!



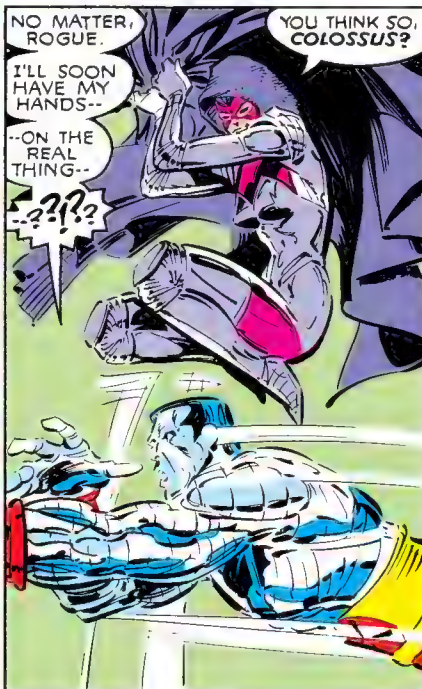
AND HOW, PRAY TELL, **ROGUE**...

...WILL YOU RING CHIMES...

...YOU CAN'T EVEN TOUCH?

SPIT-- SHE DID IT TO ME AGAIN--

--TELEPATHICALLY CONFUSED ME SO AH'D TACKLE AN ILLUSION!



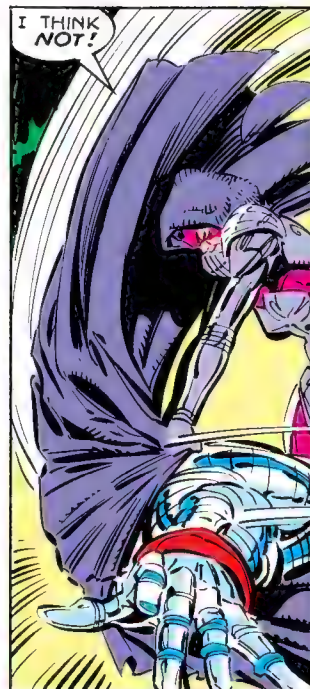
NO MATTER, **ROGUE**.

I'LL SOON HAVE MY HANDS--

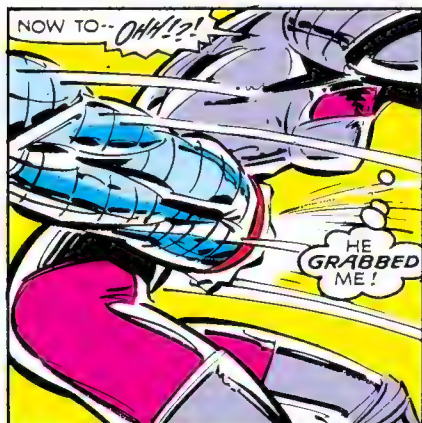
--ON THE REAL THING--

...???

YOU THINK SO, **COLOSSUS**?

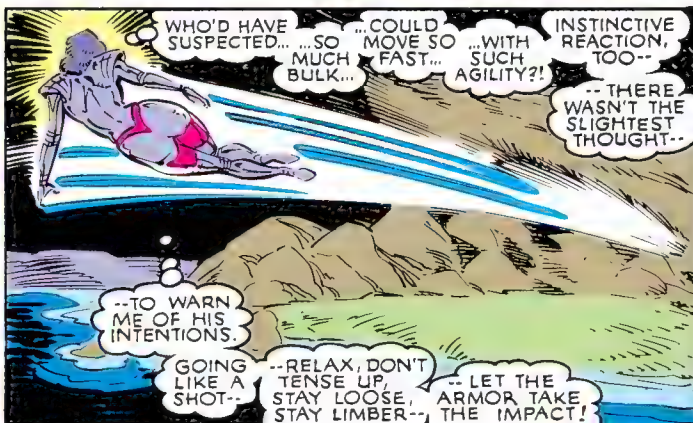


I THINK **NOT!**



NOW TO-- **Ohh!?**

HE GRABBED ME!



WHO'D HAVE SUSPECTED... SO MUCH BULK...

...COULD MOVE SO FAST...

...WITH SUCH AGILITY?!

INSTINCTIVE REACTION, TOO--

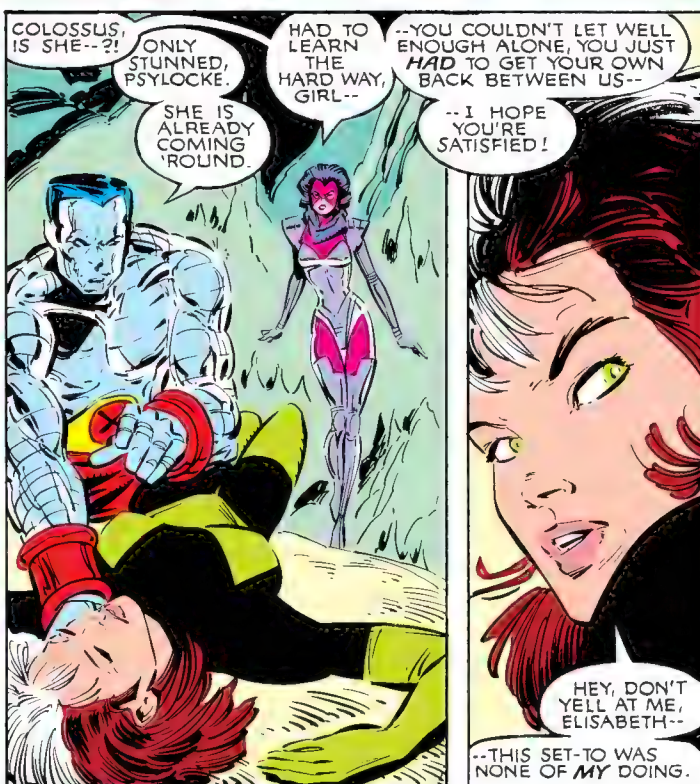
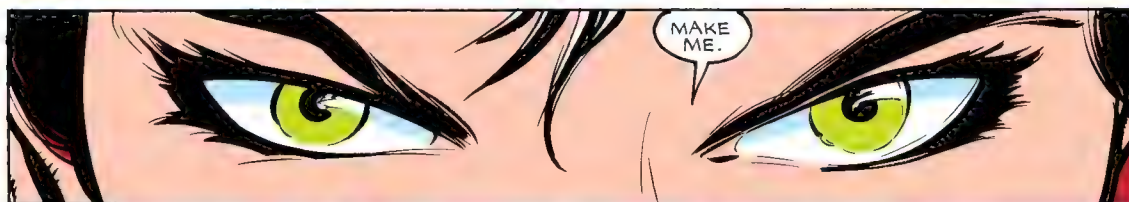
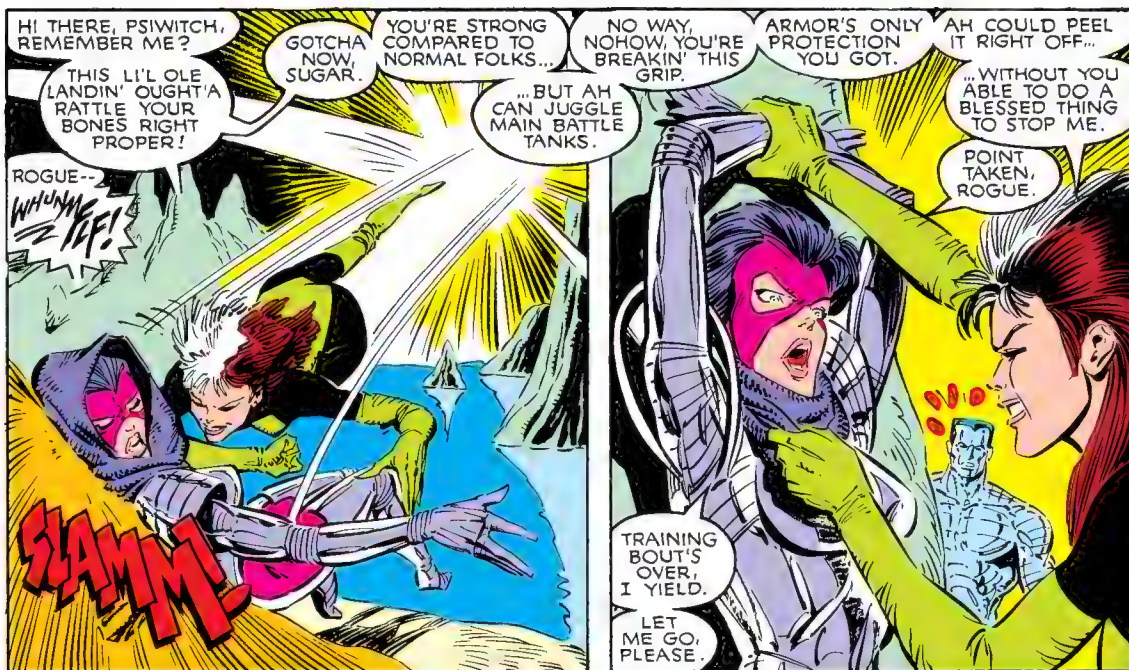
--THERE WASN'T THE SLIGHTEST THOUGHT--

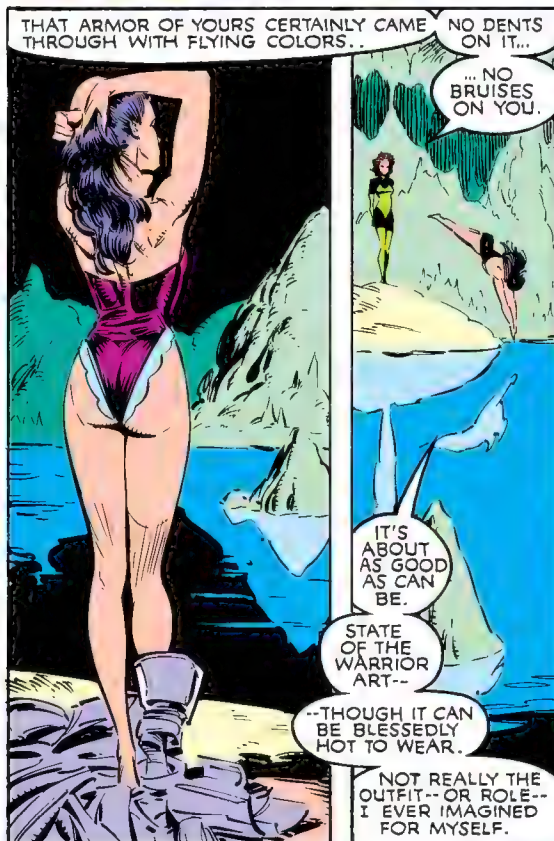
--TO WARN ME OF HIS INTENTIONS

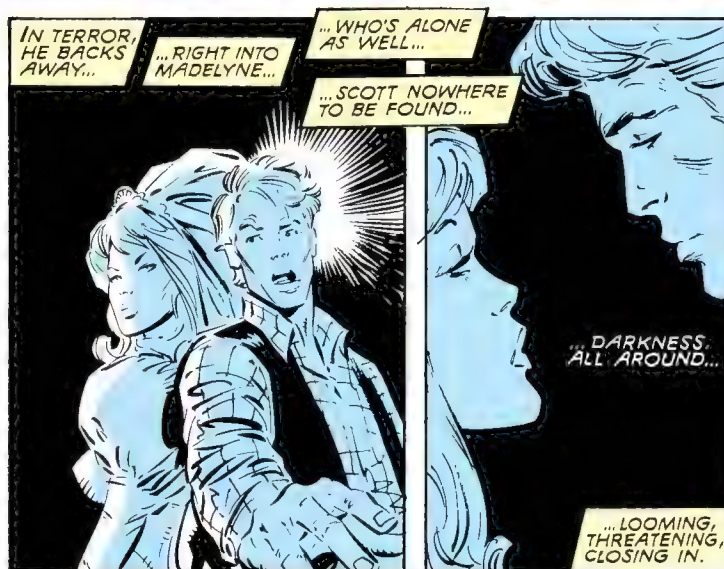
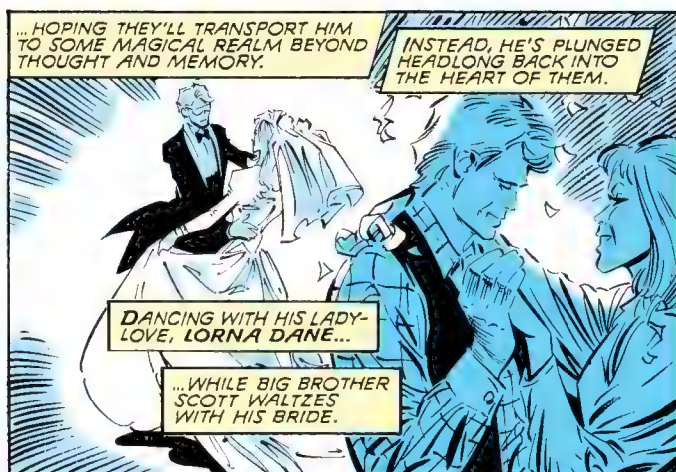
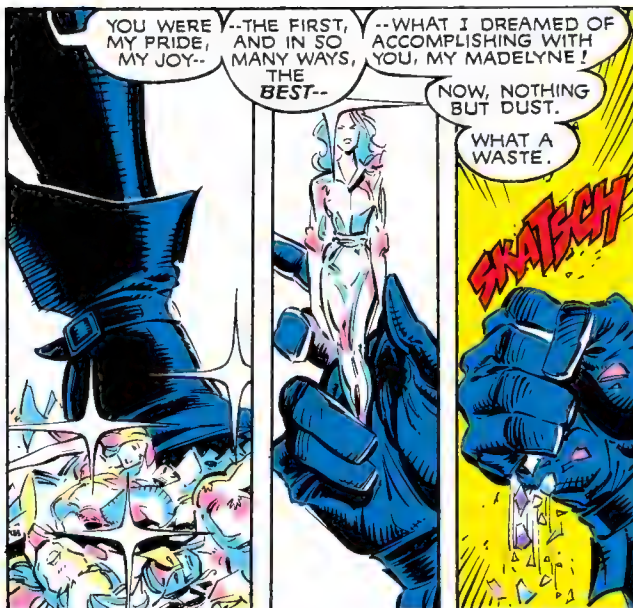
GOING LIKE A SHOT--

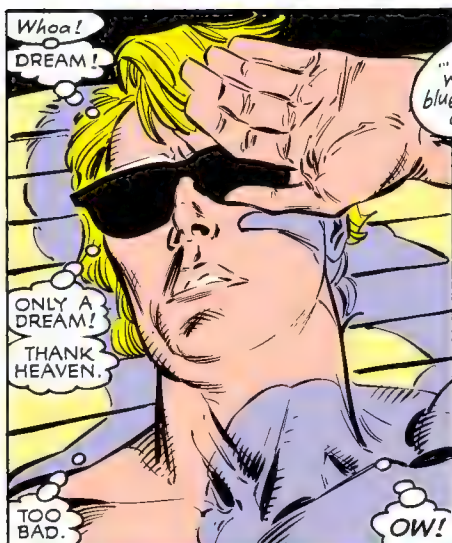
--RELAX, DON'T TENSE UP, STAY LOOSE, STAY LIMBER--

--LET THE ARMOR TAKE THE IMPACT!









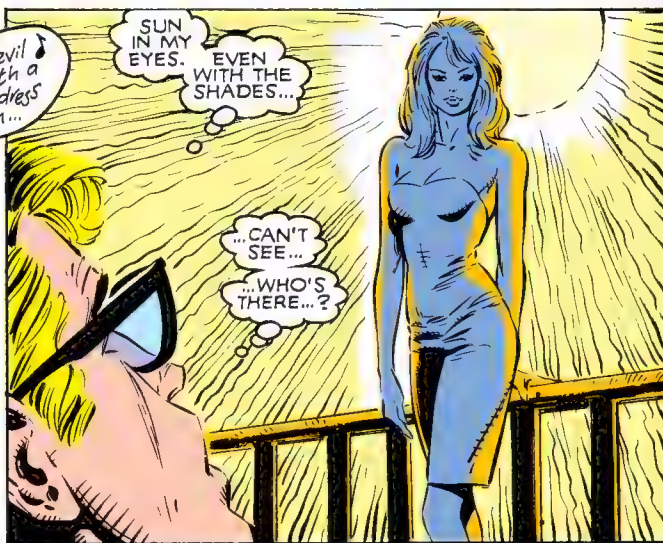
Whoa!
DREAM!

ONLY A
DREAM!
THANK
HEAVEN.

TOO
BAD.

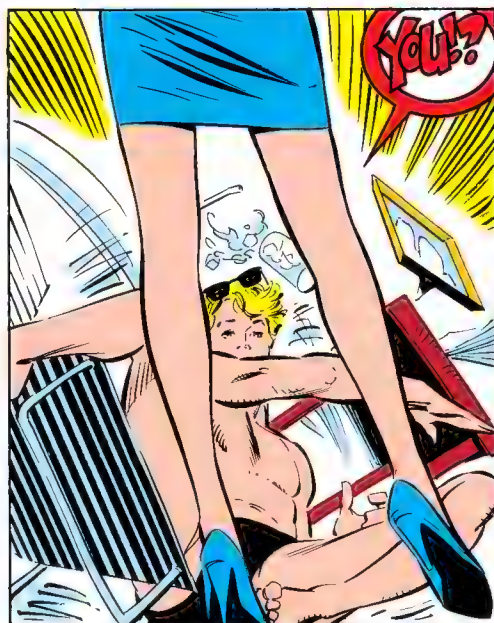
...devil
with a
blue dress
on...

OW!

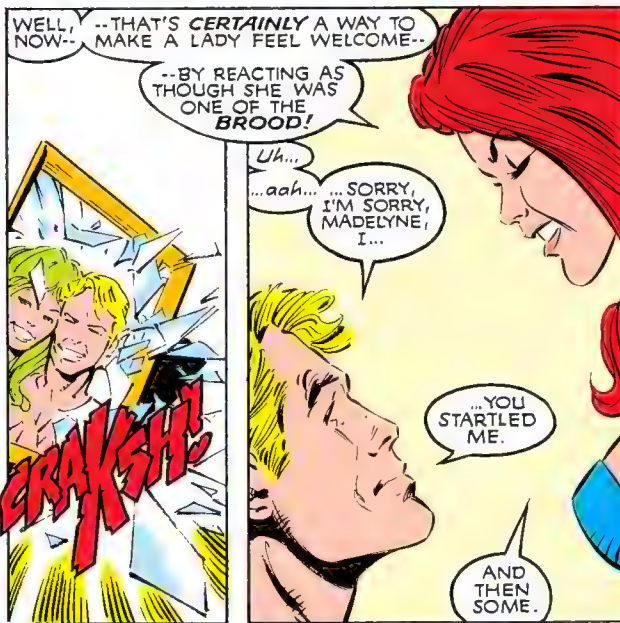


SUN
IN MY
EYES.
EVEN
WITH THE
SHADES...

...CAN'T
SEE...
...WHO'S
THERE...?



You!?



WELL, NOW--
--THAT'S CERTAINLY A WAY TO
MAKE A LADY FEEL WELCOME--

--BY REACTING AS
THOUGH SHE WAS
ONE OF THE
BROOD!

Uh...
...aah...
...SORRY,
I'M SORRY,
MADELYNE,
I...

...YOU
STARTLED
ME.

AND
THEN
SOME.



I HEARD
YOUR
MUSIC.

SOUNDED
GREAT.

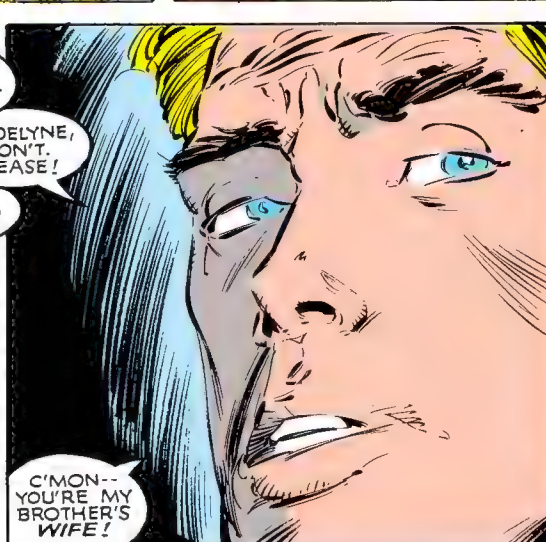
YOU
LOOK
GREAT.

THANK YOU,
KIND SIR.

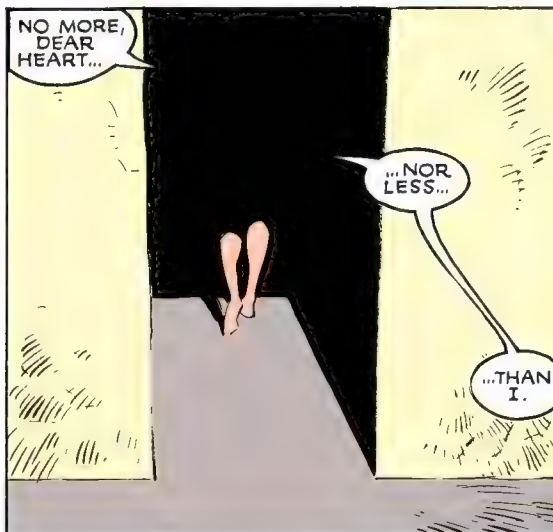
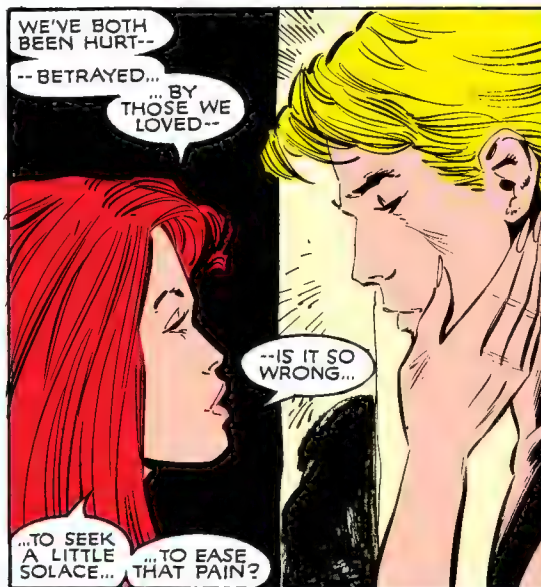
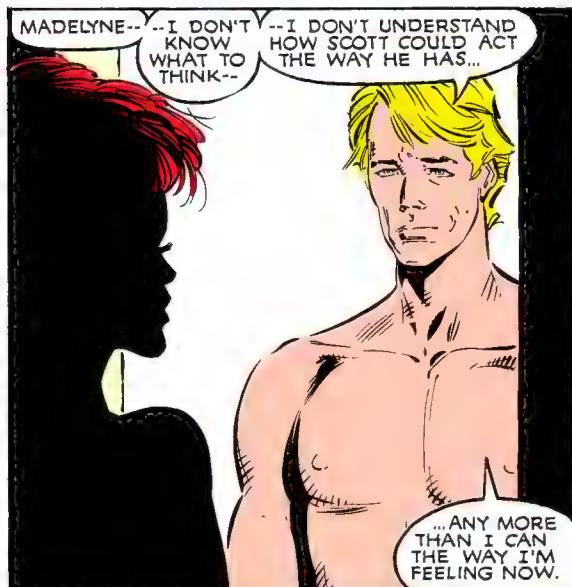
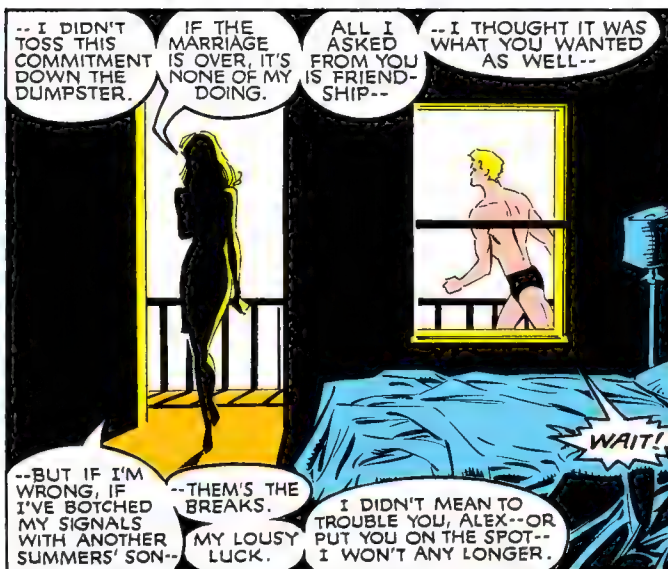
I DID IT
JUST FOR
YOU.

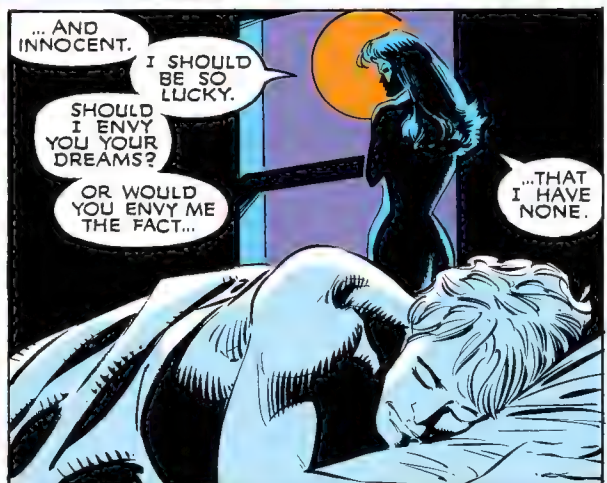
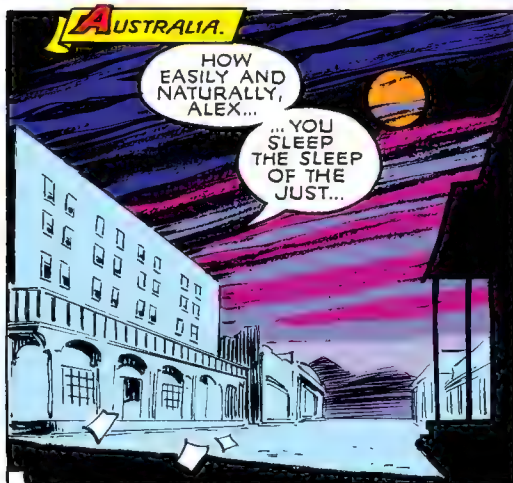
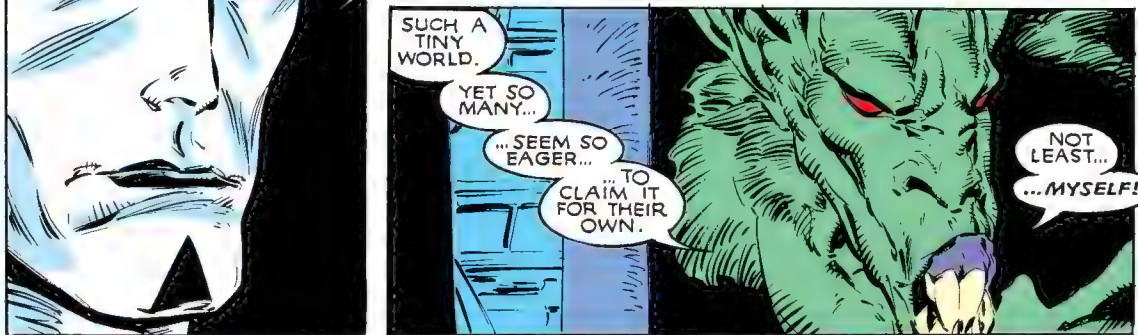
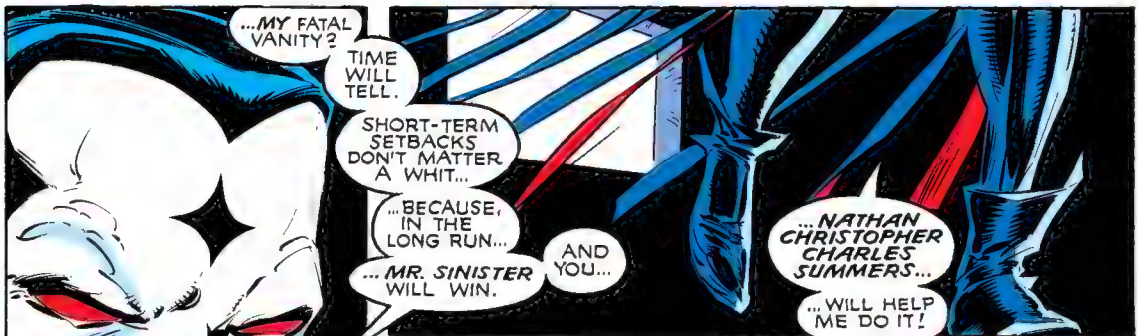
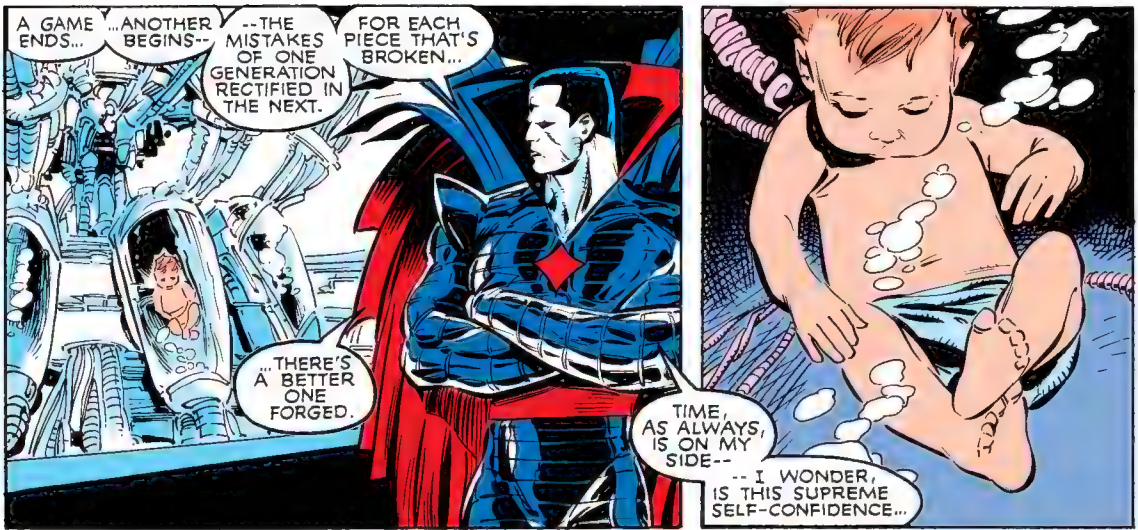
MADELYNE,
DON'T.
PLEASE!

DON'T
WHAT?



C'MON--
YOU'RE MY
BROTHER'S
WIFE!







ANOTHER TIME,
ANOTHER PLACE...

...WHO KNOWS
WHAT MIGHT
HAVE BEEN?



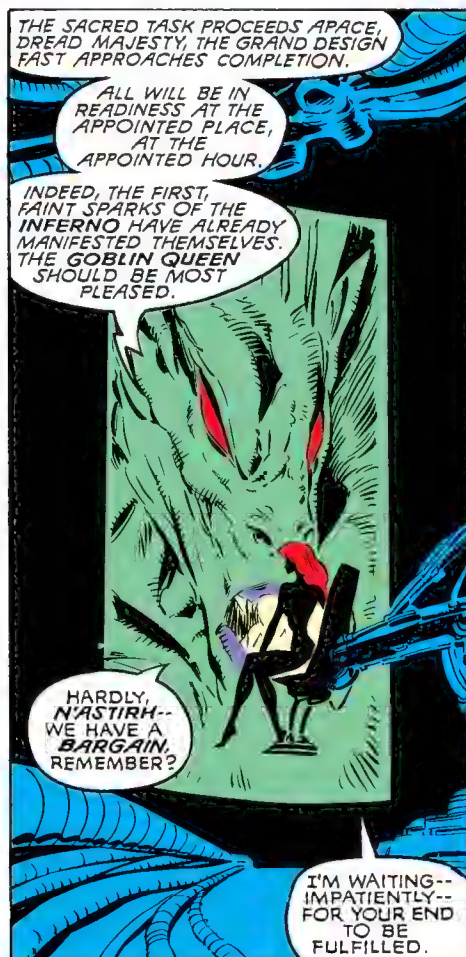
HERE
AND NOW...

...WHO CAN SAY
WHAT YET
WILL BE?



I
COULD
SAVE
YOU.

BUT IT'S
BEST THAT
I DON'T.



THE SACRED TASK PROCEEDS APACE,
DREAD MAJESTY, THE GRAND DESIGN
FAST APPROACHES COMPLETION.

ALL WILL BE IN
READINESS AT THE
APPOINTED PLACE,
AT THE
APPOINTED HOUR.

INDEED, THE FIRST,
FAINT SPARKS OF THE
INFERNO HAVE ALREADY
MANIFESTED THEMSELVES.
THE GOBLIN QUEEN
SHOULD BE MOST
PLEASED.

HARDLY,
N'ASTIRH--
WE HAVE A
BARGAIN.
REMEMBER?

I'M WAITING--
IMPATIENTLY--
FOR YOUR END
TO BE
FULFILLED.

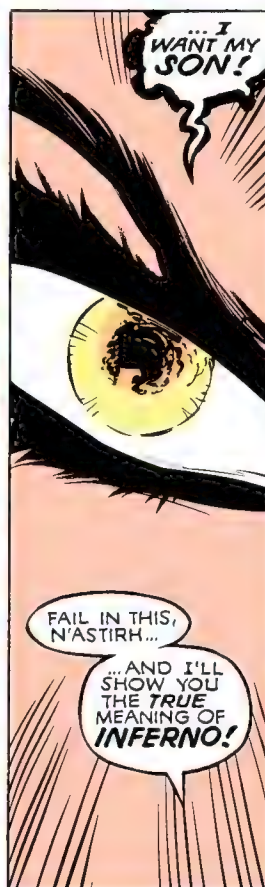


I WANT THE
MARAUDERS
FOUND--

--SO THAT
THE X-MEN
CAN PAY
THEM
BACK...

...FOR THE
MISERY
THEY'VE
CAUSED.

BUT MOST
OF ALL,
DEMON...



...I
WANT MY
SON?

FAIL IN THIS,
N'ASTIRH...

...AND I'LL
SHOW YOU
THE TRUE
MEANING OF
INFERNO!

NEXT: IT BEGINS--
STRIKE THE MATCH!

MARVEL®



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APPROVED
BY THE
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CODE
AUTHORITY

INFERNO™

X-MEN®

N'ASTIRH!
MR. SINISTER!
THE GOBLIN QUEEN!
THE MARAUDERS!
THIS ONE'S
GOT IT
ALL!



JAN
P. FERRI
82

STRIKE *the* MATCH

A STAN LEE PRESENTATION, STARRING THE UNCANNY X-MEN

The RAINBOW ROOM--

-- A MORE ROMANTIC SETTING AND MORE MAGICAL EVENING COULDN'T POSSIBLY BE IMAGINED...

... AS THE ORCHESTRA SLIDES SILKILY THROUGH ITS REPERTOIRE OF GLENN MILLER CLASSICS...

... WHILE ALEX SUMMERS AND MADELYNE PRYOR JOYOUSLY TRIP THE LIGHT FANTASTIC ACROSS THE BALLROOM.

NORMALLY, THIS CLUB-- ATOP THE RCA BUILDING, ITSELF THE CENTERPIECE OF MANHATTAN'S FAR-FAMED ROCKEFELLER CENTER-- IS BOOKED SOLID, MONTHS IN ADVANCE.

TONIGHT, HOWEVER, IT'S EMPTY.

WHICH SUITS THESE TWO YOUNG LOVERS JUST FINE.

INFERNO
PART THE FIRST

CHRIS CLAREMONT
WRITER

MARC SILVESTRI
PENCILER

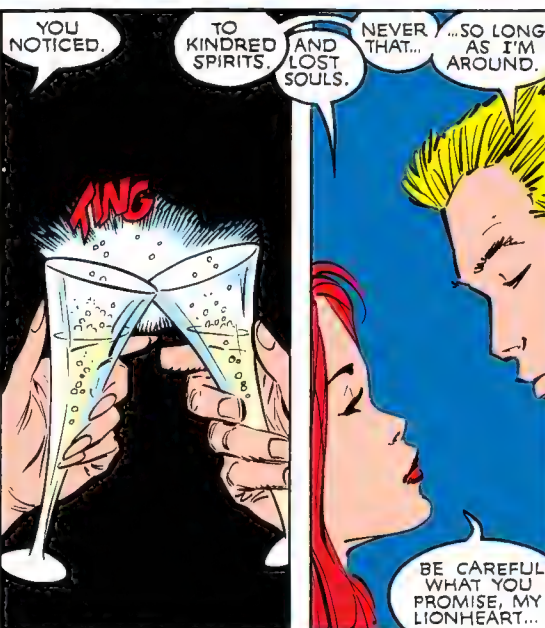
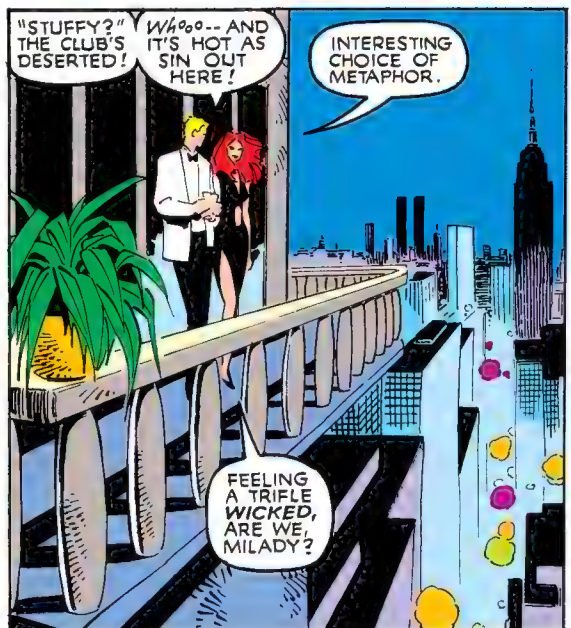
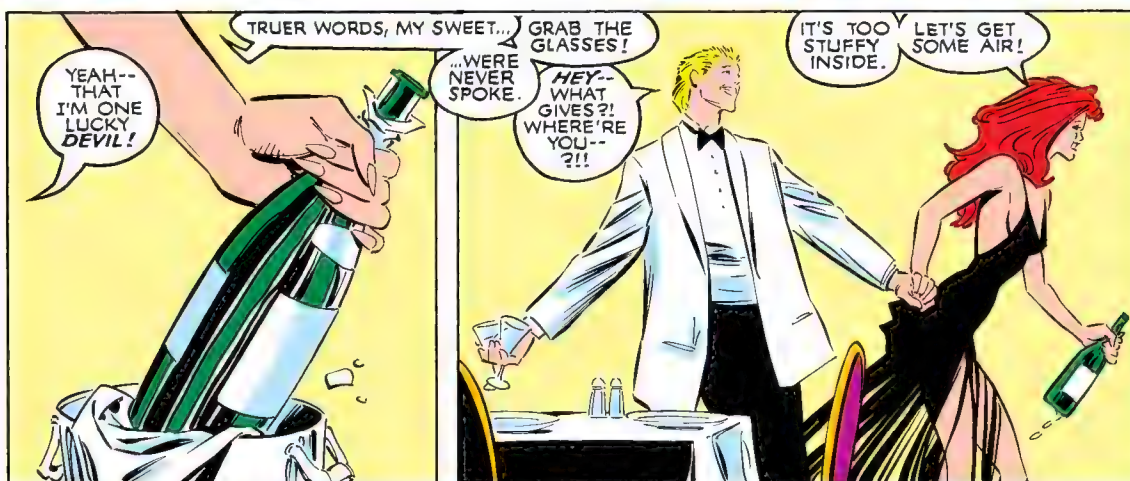
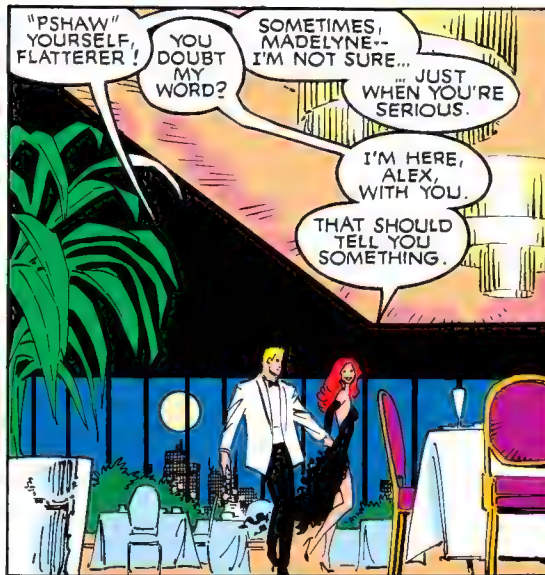
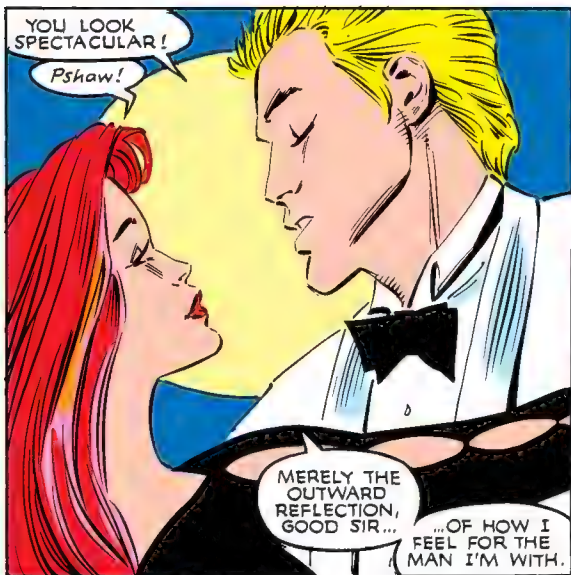
DAN GREEN
INKER

GLYNIS OLIVER
COLORIST

TOM ORZECOWSKI
LETTERER

BOB HARRAS
EDITOR

TOM DeFALCO
EDITOR IN CHIEF





...YOU MAY FIND YOURSELF--!

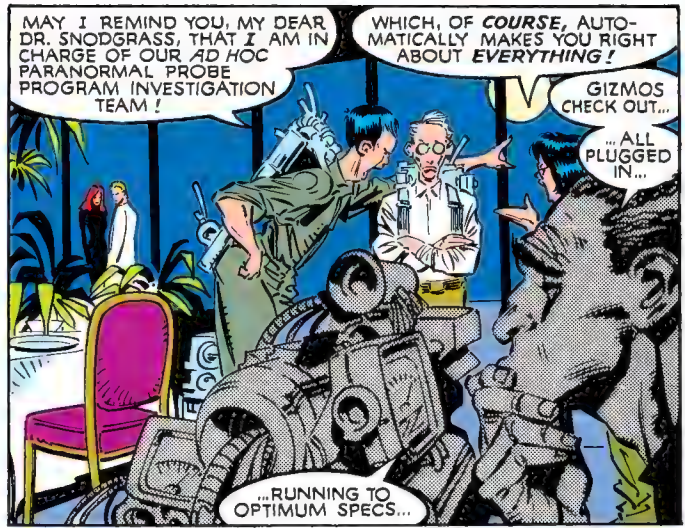
IGNORAMUS!

CRETIN!

CHARLATAN!

BUFFOON!

WHAT THE BLAZES--???



MAY I REMIND YOU, MY DEAR DR. SNODGRASS, THAT I AM IN CHARGE OF OUR AD HOC PARANORMAL PROBE PROGRAM INVESTIGATION TEAM!

WHICH, OF *COURSE*, AUTOMATICALLY MAKES YOU RIGHT ABOUT *EVERYTHING*!

GIZMOS CHECK OUT...

...ALL PLUGGED IN...

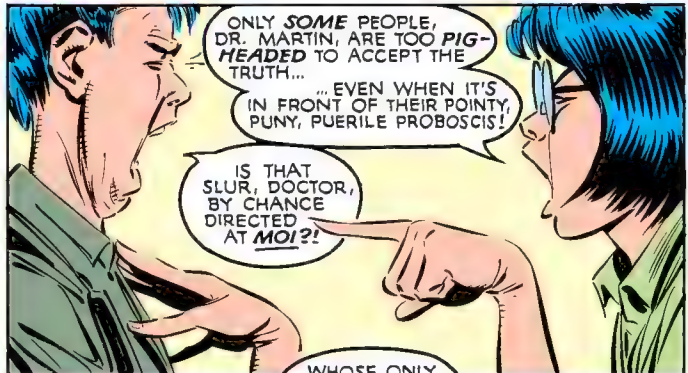
...RUNNING TO OPTIMUM SPECS...



EVERY READING WE'VE TAKEN SINCE WE ARRIVED...

...CONFIRMS DR. MILAN'S INITIAL OBSERVATION:

...THE EMPIRE STATE BUILDING IS **GROWING!**



ONLY *SOME* PEOPLE, DR. MARTIN, ARE TOO PIG-HEADED TO ACCEPT THE TRUTH...

...EVEN WHEN IT'S IN FRONT OF THEIR POINTY, PUNY, PUERILE PROBOSCIS!

IS THAT SLUR, DOCTOR, BY CHANCE DIRECTED AT *MOI*??!

WHOSE ONLY CRIME IS THE COMMON-SENSE ASSERTION...



...THAT BUILDINGS CANNOT GROW!

HAVING A PROBLEM, FOLKS?



ANYTHING WE CAN HELP WITH?

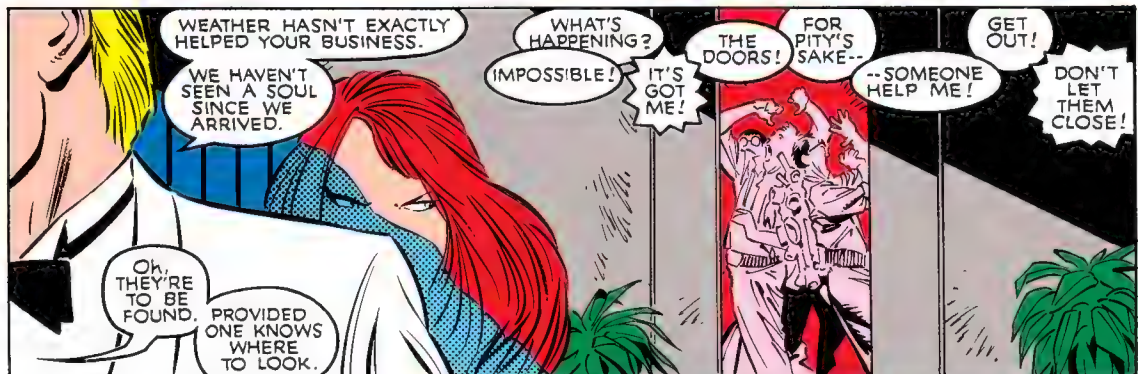
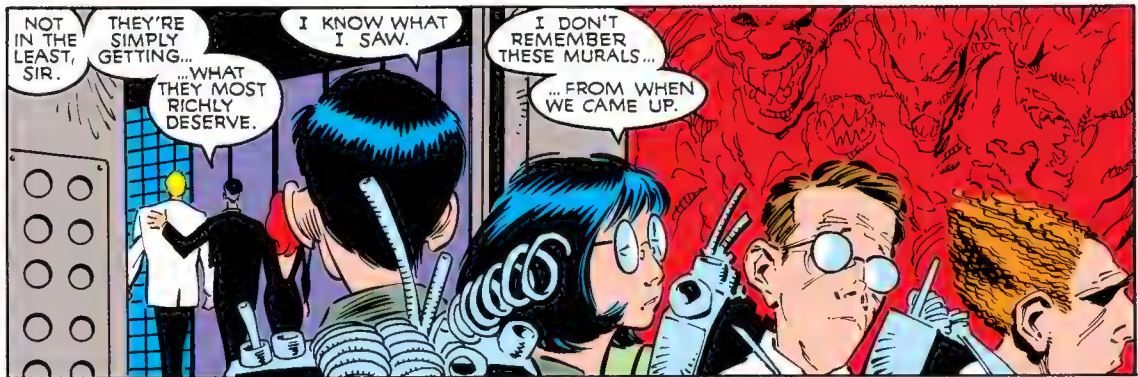
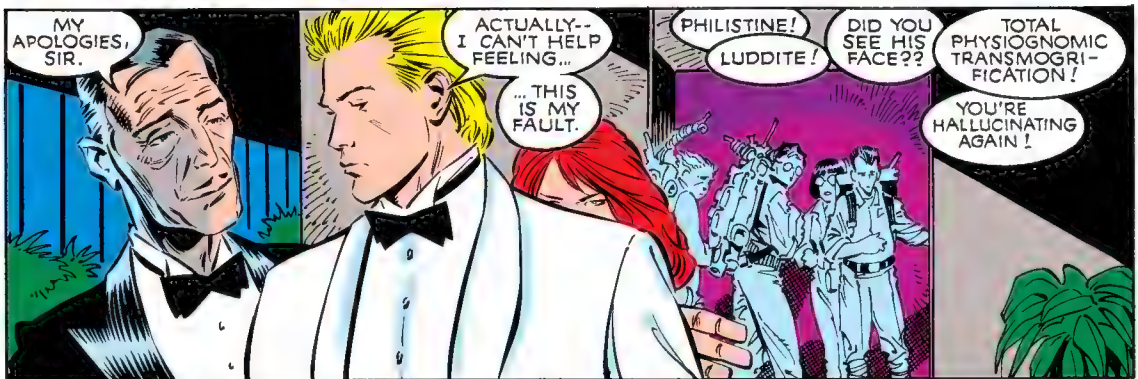
DOUBTFUL, AT BEST!

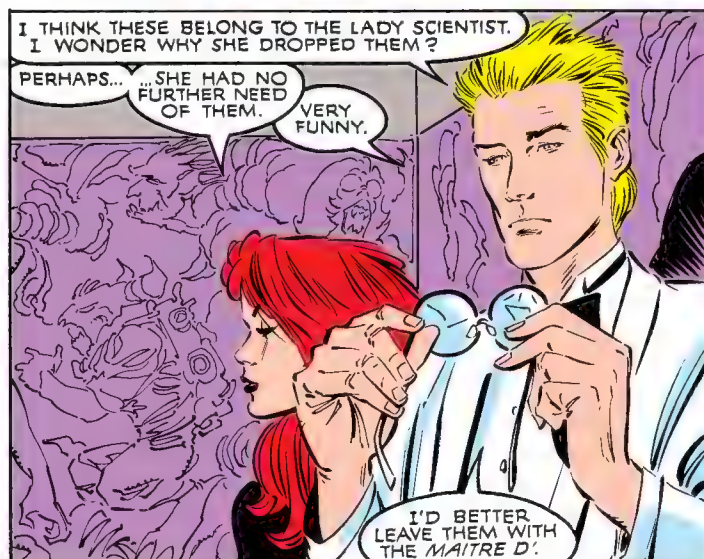
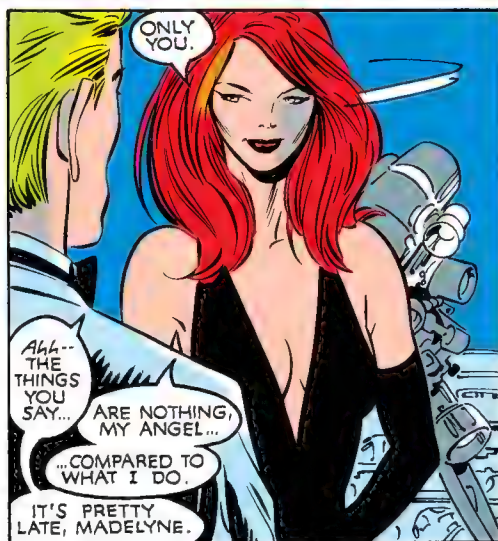
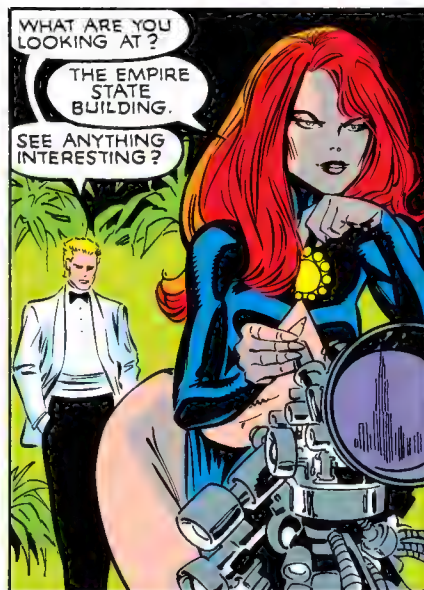
WE ARE UNIVERSITY ACCREDITED SCIENTISTS...

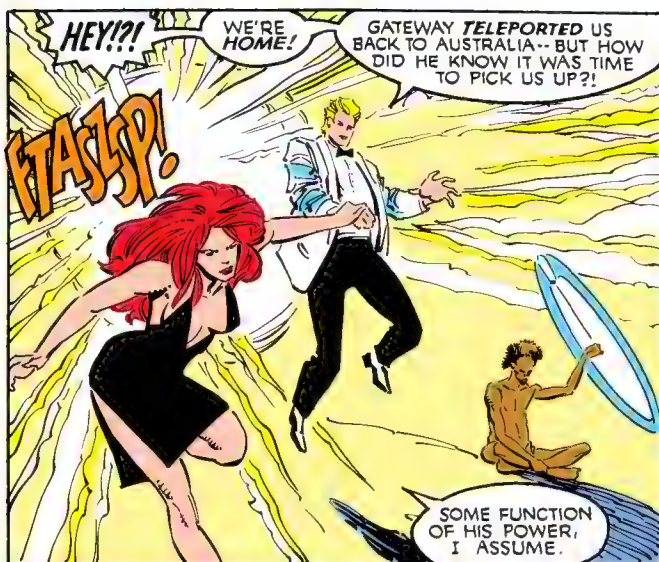
...ENGAGED IN HIGHLY SENSITIVE RESEARCH OF A MOST DELICATE NATURE!

WE CAN DO WITHOUT THE INTERFERENCE...

...OF KIBBITZING PLAYBOY DILETTANTES!







HEY!?!?

WE'RE HOME!

GATEWAY **TELEPORTED** US BACK TO AUSTRALIA-- BUT HOW DID HE KNOW IT WAS TIME TO PICK US UP?!

FLASH!

SOME FUNCTION OF HIS POWER, I ASSUME.



Whew-- I'll **NEVER** GET USED TO GOING ON MIDNIGHT DATES IN MANHATTAN...

...AND COMING HOME TO HIGH NOON IN THE OUTBACK.

AND THE NEXT DAY, TO BOOT.

IT'S BEEN A LOVELY EVENING, MADELYNE...



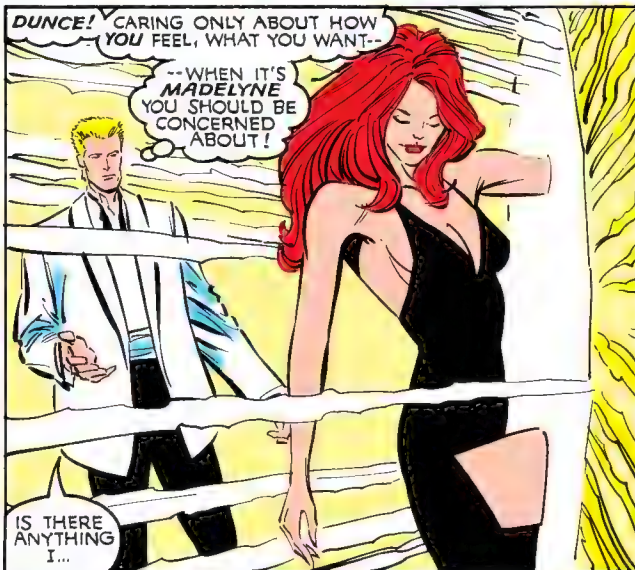
...I HOPE IT'S A LONG WAY FROM OVER.

THERE'LL BE OTHER EVENINGS.

FOR NOW, THOUGH...

...I'D PREFER SOME TIME AND SPACE...

...TO MYSELF.



DUNCE! CARING ONLY ABOUT HOW YOU FEEL, WHAT YOU WANT--

--WHEN IT'S **MADELYNE** YOU SHOULD BE CONCERNED ABOUT!

IS THERE ANYTHING I...



...CAN DO.

GONE.

TELEPORTED **GATEWAY** KNOWS WHERE.

BUT YOU'LL NEVER TELL, WILL YOU, FELLA?

ANY MORE'N YOU'LL SEND ME AFTER HER.



SILENT UNTO DEATH.

AND TWICE AS SPOOKY.

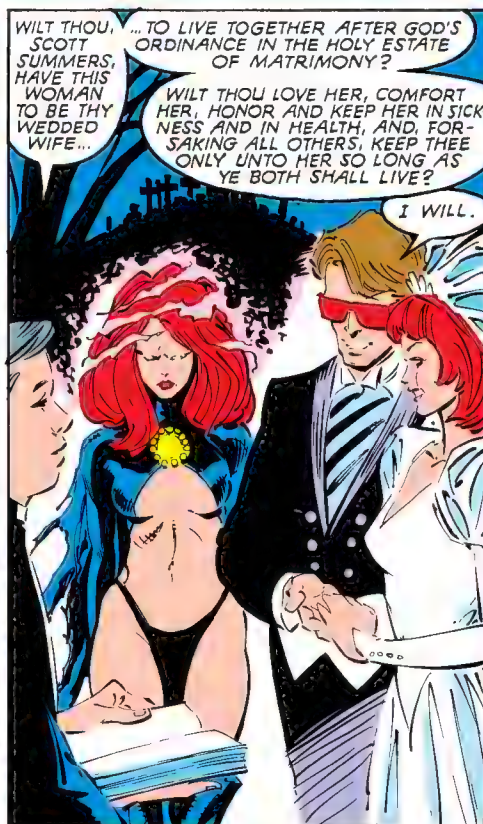
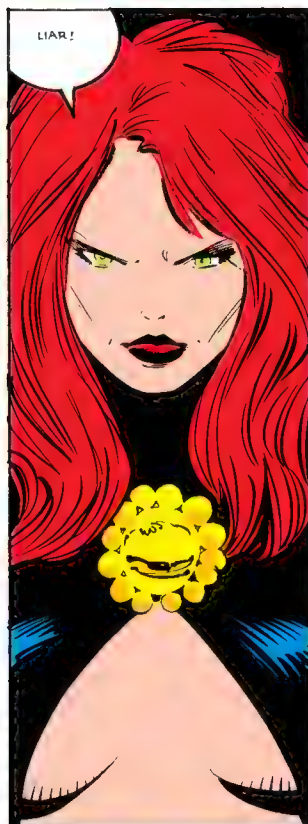
AND WE'RE SUPPOSED TO **TRUST** HIM???

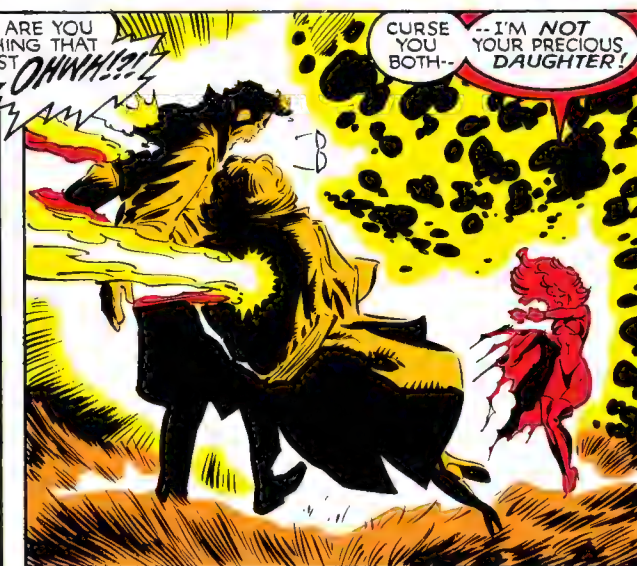
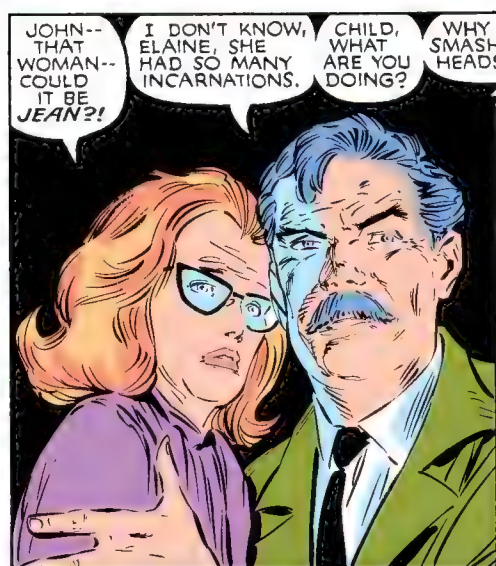
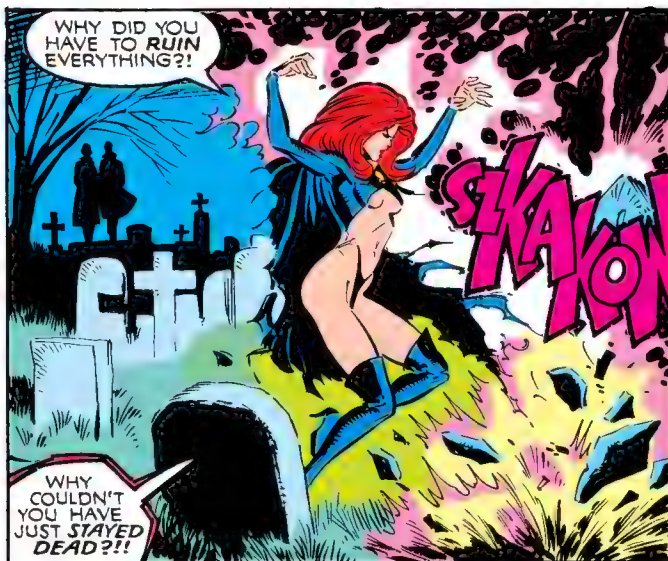
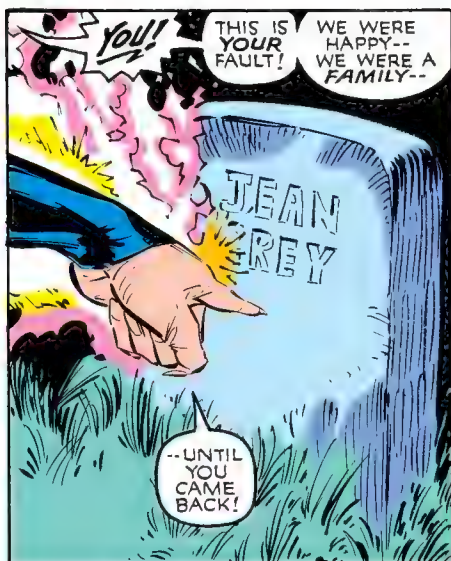
WE WERE HAVING SUCH A GREAT TIME, MADELYNE AND I, WHY'D SHE--?!

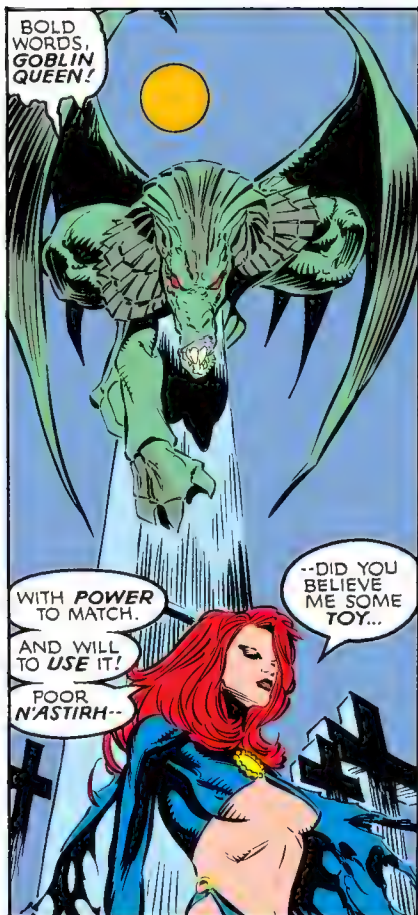
OF **COURSE!**

THE ANSWER'S **OBVIOUS!**

MAYBE, AFTER ALL, I **CAN** HELP!!







BOLD WORDS, GOBLIN QUEEN!

WITH **POWER** TO MATCH.

AND WILL TO **USE** IT!

POOR N'ASTIRH--

--DID YOU BELIEVE ME SOME **TOY**...



...FIT ONLY FOR YOUR PLEASURE?

DON'T BOTHER DENYING IT, DEMON LORD, YOUR THOUGHTS ARE PITIFULLY TRANSPARENT.

WHO... **...ARE YOU?!**

...MY OWN WOMAN.



ALSO, YOUR EMPLOYER.

YOU HAVE NEWS FOR ME?

BY THE APPOINTED TIME, AT THE APPOINTED PLACE...

...ALL WILL BE AS YOU'VE COMMANDED.

SKRIK!

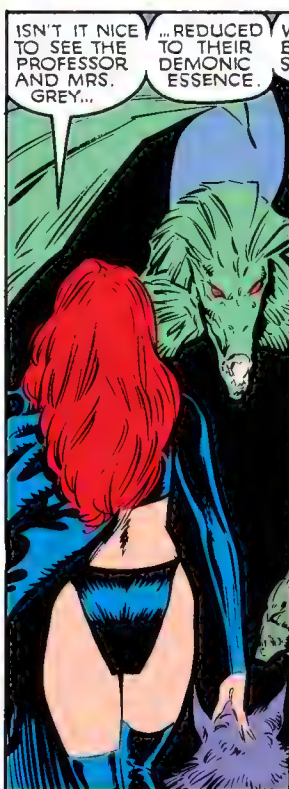


IT HAD BETTER BE.

OR YOU'LL ANSWER TO MY PETS.

chitter

SSRRAR



ISN'T IT NICE TO SEE THE PROFESSOR AND MRS. GREY...

...REDUCED TO THEIR DEMONIC ESSENCE.

WON'T THEIR BABY GIRL BE SO PLEASED?

SPEAKING OF BABIES, N'ASTIRH...

...I WANT **MINE.**

MY WORD IS BOND, MILADY.

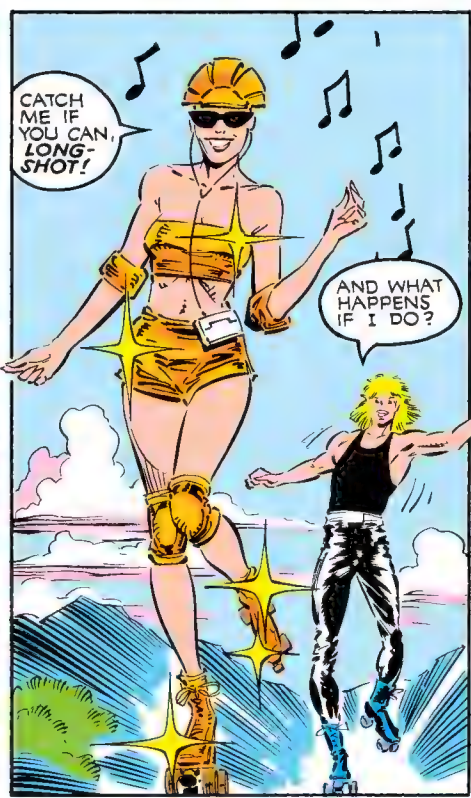
A MOST PROMISING LEAD HAS BEEN UNEARTHED.

IF YOUR DARKLING MAJESTY WILL BUT ACCOMPANY ME...?

AUSTRALIA--

-- ON THE DESERTED
DESERT ROAD
LEADING INTO THE
RUNDOWN, RAM-
SHACKLE TOWN...

...THE X-MEN
HAVE ADOPTED
AS THEIR OWN...



CATCH
ME IF
YOU CAN,
LONG-
SHOT!

AND WHAT
HAPPENS
IF I DO?



WHO
KNOWS...
...MAYBE
YOU'LL
GET
REALLY
LUCKY!

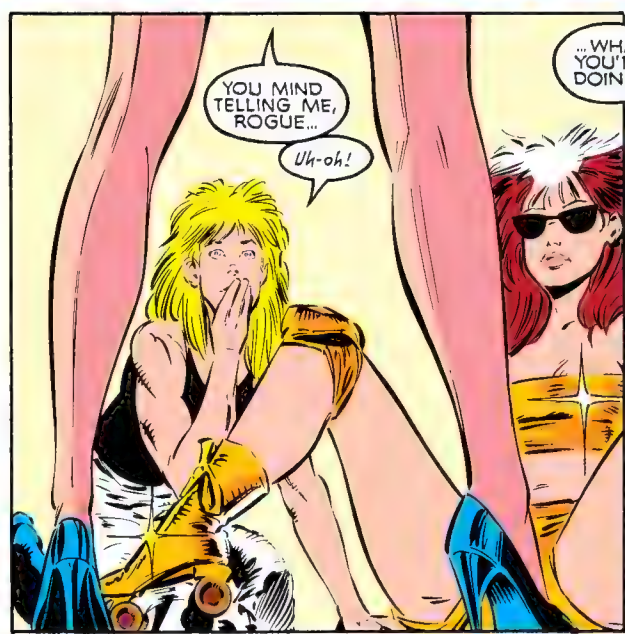


DON'T
COUNT
ON IT--

--YOU
HUSSY!

Ulp!

WAW
CAW!



YOU MIND
TELLING ME,
ROGUE...

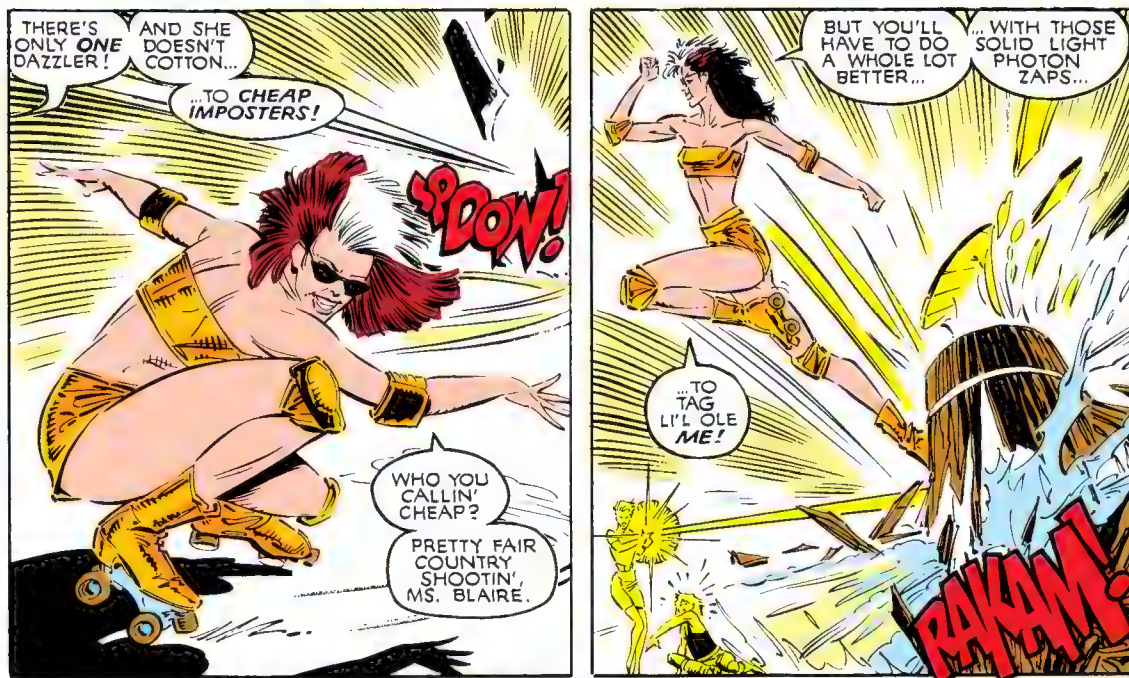
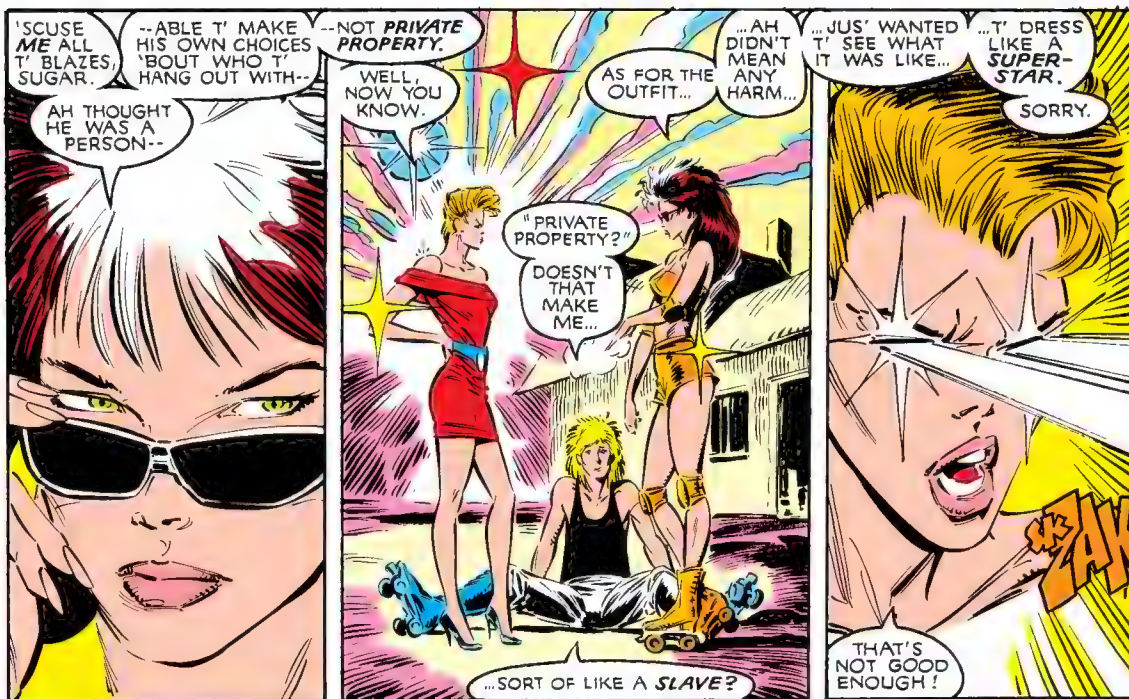
Uh-oh!

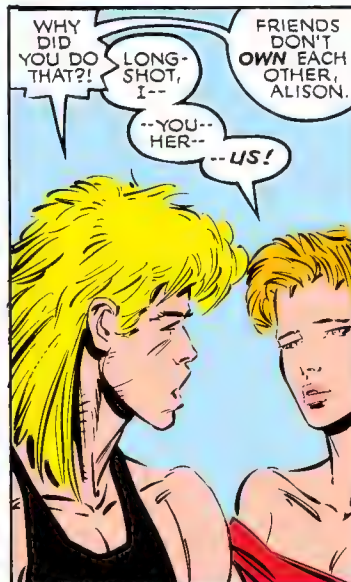
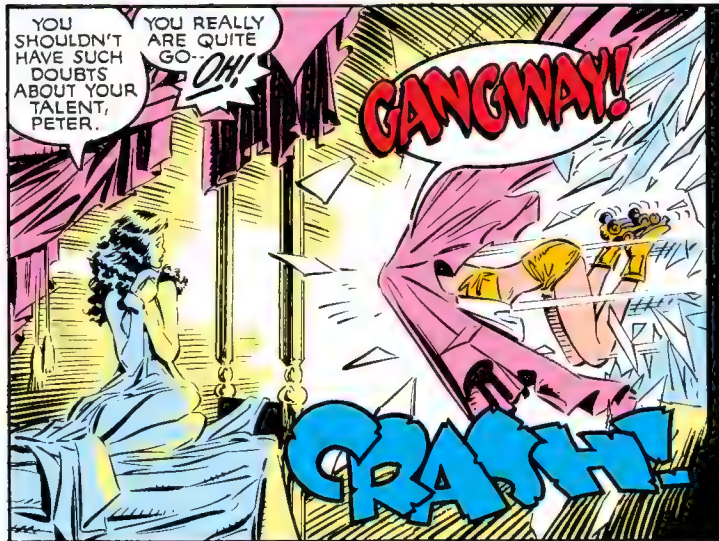
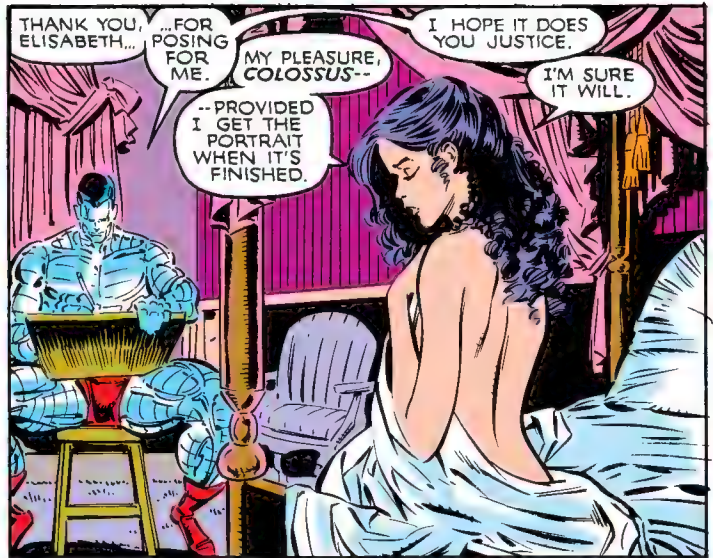
...WHAT
YOU'RE
DOING...



...WEARING MY
CLOTHES...

...AND
MAKING
TIME WITH
MY BOY-
FRIEND
?!!





Ohhh, LONG-SHOT--

--WHAT YOU SAID MAY BE TRUE, BUT IT WASN'T NICE.

ALI MADE HER INTENTIONS PLAIN FROM THE START.

YOU SHOULD HAVE DONE THE SAME.

FANTASTIC!

THE X-MEN ARE "INVISIBLE" TO EVERY SCANNING SYSTEM ON EARTH, EXCEPT OUR OWN, IN THE COMPLEX BURIED BENEATH THE TOWN.

AND WITH IT, I CAN NOT ONLY MAINTAIN SURVEILLANCE OVER EVERYTHING AND EVERYONE FOR MILES AROUND...

... I CAN ACCESS ANY INTERNATIONAL DATA NETWORK I PLEASE.

THE COMPUTER CENTER'S PRETTY MUCH MADELYNE'S DOMAIN-- SHE CAN GET THESE ELECTRONIC BEASTS TO DO PRACTICALLY ANYTHING--

--BUT I AIN'T HALF-BAD MYSELF.

PAYDIRT!

Sniff!

SNIFF!

Y'KNOW, IT CAN BE REALLY DISCONCERTING--

--STORM... WOLVERINE--

--THE WAY YOU SNEAK UP ON A BODY.

THAT'S OUR NATURE, BOY.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE, HAVOK?

WELL, BOSS--YOU KNOW HOW WE'VE BEEN TRYING TO TRACK DOWN THE MARAUDERS EVER SINCE WE SETTLED HERE...

... USING A SEARCH PROGRAM MADELYNE AND I DESIGNED.

I GUESS SHE'S BEEN TINKERING BY HERSELF LATELY--WITH HARD- AND SOFTWARE BOTH--THERE'VE BEEN SOME MAJOR CHANGES, EVEN I CAN'T QUITE FIGURE OUT--

-- BUT WHATEVER SHE DID... IT PAID OFF.

I THINK WE FOUND THEM.

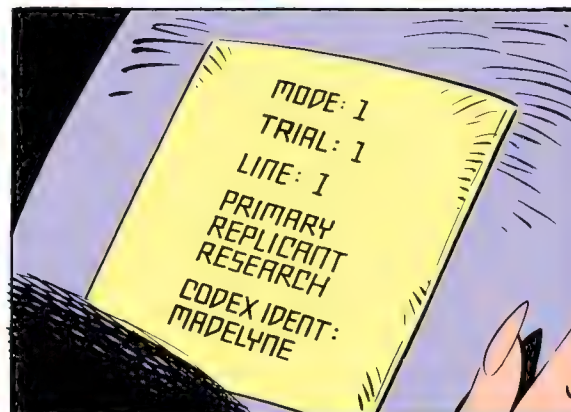
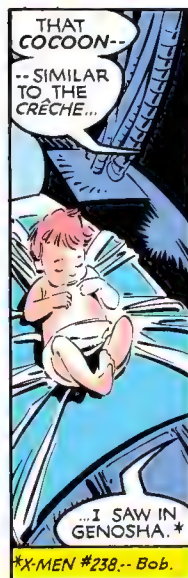
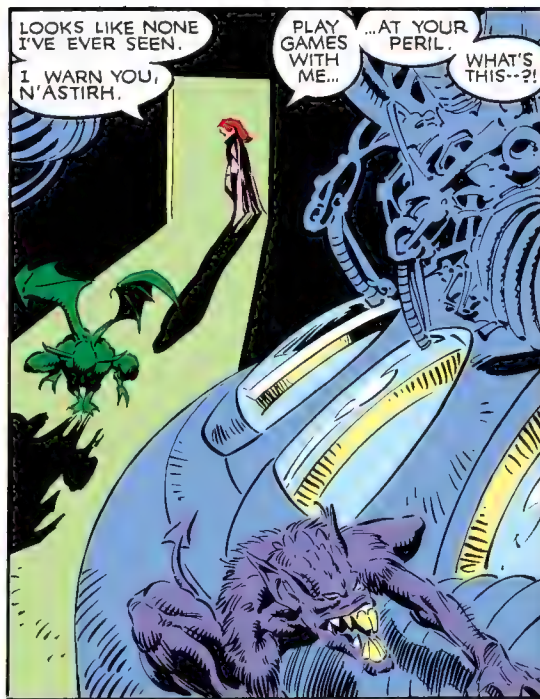
IN THE "ALLEY"-- HOW APPROPRIATE.

THEY SLAUGHTERED THE MORLOCKS THERE...

...AN' FAIR CRIPPLED US.

PAST TIME, MY FRIENDS...

...WE PAID THEM BACK... IN KIND!



MANHATTAN.

ONCE UPON A TIME--
AND, SADLY, NOT
SO LONG AGO--

--A BAND OF MUTANTS LIVED IN
THESE CATACOMBS-- A FORGOTTEN
NETWORK OF TUNNELS BURIED A
MILE AND MORE BENEATH THE
CITY STREETS.

THEY CALLED THEMSELVES MORLOCKS--
AFTER THE CHARACTERS IN H.G. WELLS'
CLASSIC NOVEL, THE TIME MACHINE--
AND ESSENTIALLY WANTED TO HAVE AS
LITTLE AS POSSIBLE TO DO...

"...WITH A WORLD
THAT CARED EVEN
LESS ABOUT THEM.

AND THAT'S
THE WAY IT
REMAINED...

...UNTIL THE MARAUDERS CAME, TO KILL EVERYONE THEY
FOUND.

PRETTY IMP-
PRESSIVE.

SEEN
BETTER.

NEVER
GIVE AN
INCH, huh,
SABRE-
TOOTH?

TO ANYONE.
ABOUT
ANYTHING.

WHY
SHOULD
I?

SCALPHUNTER--

--YOU AND
SABRE-
TOOTH...

...SCOUT
THE
'VALLEY'...

--MAKE SURE
THERE ARE NO
RATS LEFT IN
THIS WARREN.

YO--
POLARIS--

-- WHY'S
SINISTER
RELOCATIN'
US HERE
ANYWAY?

OURS, SWEET
BLOCKBUSTER,
IS NOT TO
REASON WHY...

NOT EVEN
A LITTLE BIT
CURIOUS,
RIPTIDE?

ARCLIGHT,
MY LOVE,
I TAKE MY
CUE...

...FROM WHAT
HAPPENED TO THE
PROVERBIAL CAT.

SMART
FELLA.

WHAT'S YOUR
COMPLAINT,
PRISM?

DON'T WE
MARAUDERS HAVE
AT LEAST AS
MANY LIVES?

WAIT'LL
YOUR
NUMBER
COMES UP,
SCRAMBLER.

MAYBE
YOU WON'T
CRACK SO
WISE, THEN.



BIGMOUTH
LI'L KOREAN
KNOWITALL...

...ALWAYS
PUSHIN'
ALWAYS
NEEDLIN'...

THINKS
HE'S SO
HOT--

-- SOMEDAY,
HE'LL GET HIS.



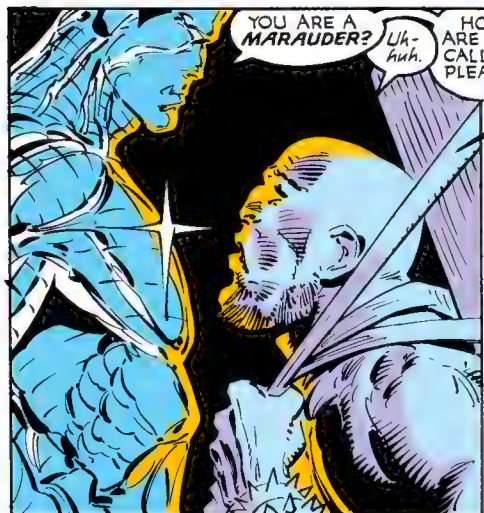
YO, PRISM--
JUICE UP
YOUR GLOW,
BRO!

SO DARK DOWN
THISAWAYS, A
BODY CAN'T SEE--

OWWWW!



YOU
WANNA
LIGHT,
BUB?



YOU ARE A
MARAUDEER?

Uh-
huh.

HOW
ARE YOU
CALLED,
PLEASE?

BLOCK-
BUSTER.



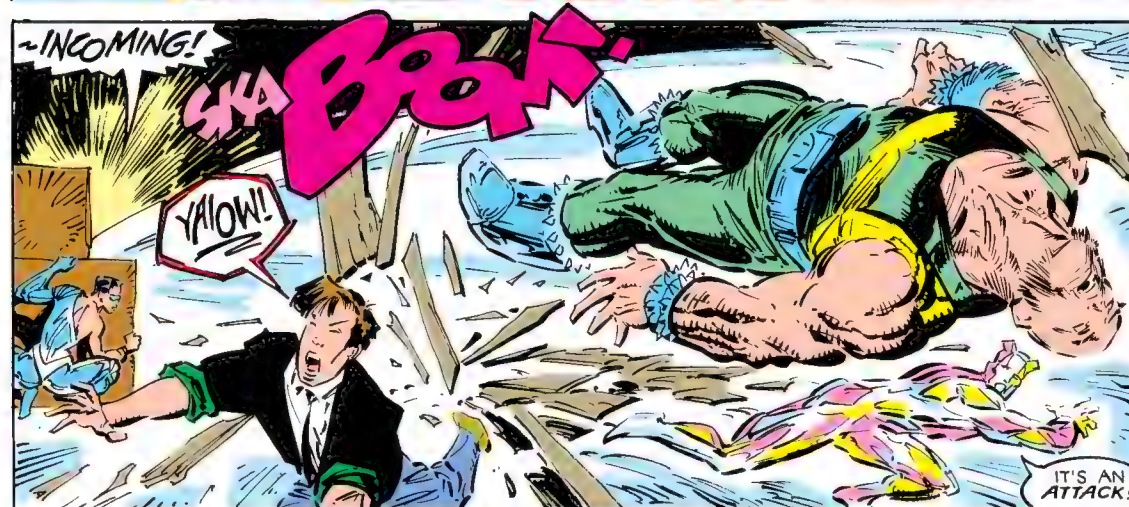
I AM

COLOSSUS!



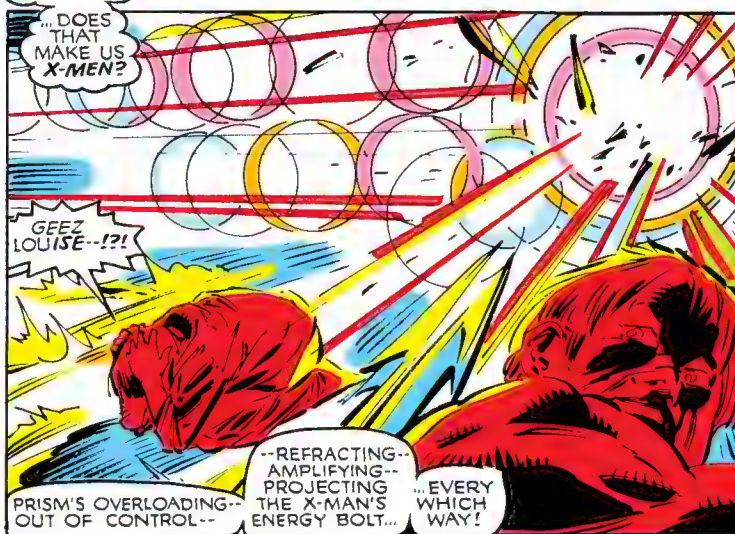
WHAT
WAS THAT?

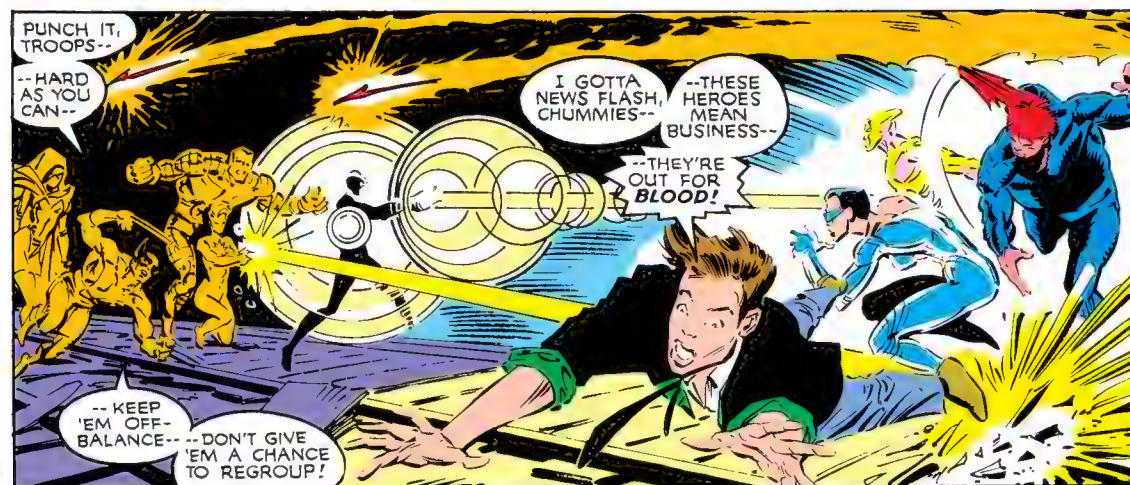
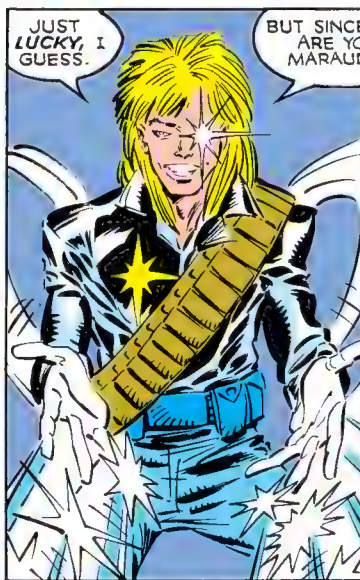
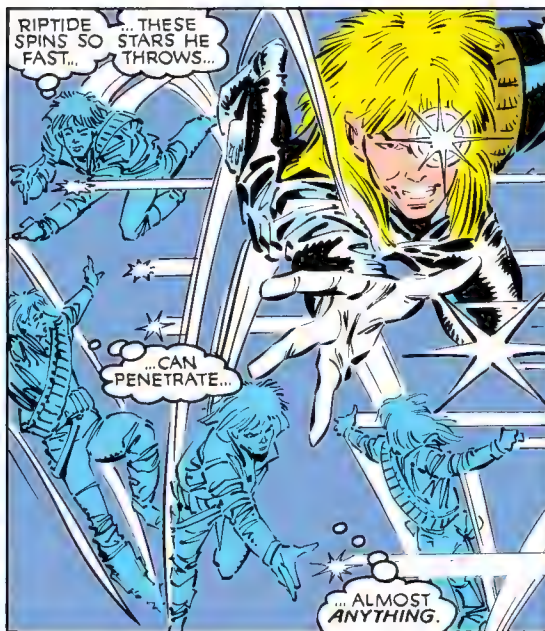
SOUNDED
LIKE--

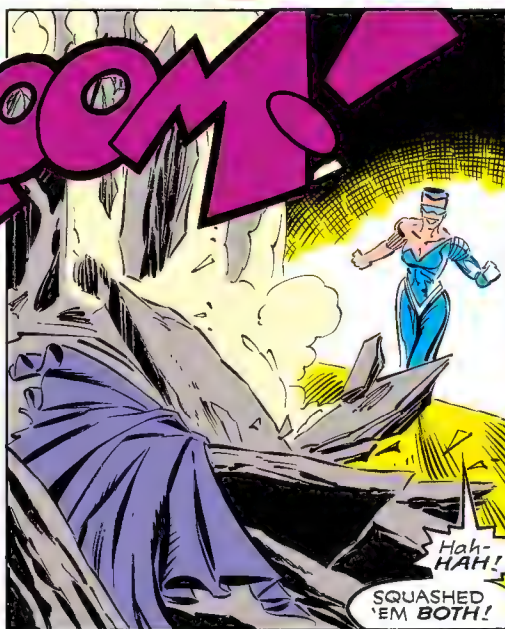
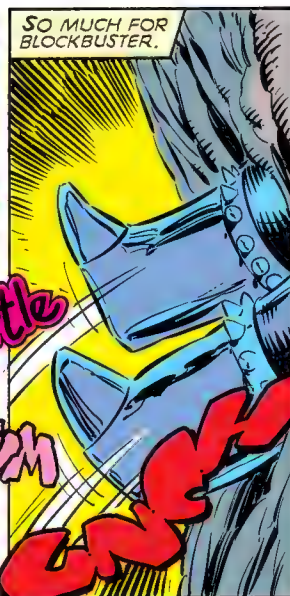


YAWOW!

IT'S AN
ATTACK!









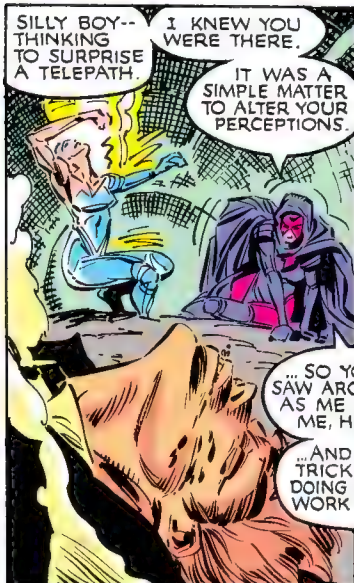
X-MEN'S
PSIWITCH
HAS ARC
ON THE
ROPE?



GREAT!
I ALWAYS
WANTED TO
SEE WHAT
HAPPENED...

...WHEN MY TOUCH
TURNED A TELE-
PATH'S POWER
INSIDE OUT...

SCRAMBLER--
NO--DON'T!



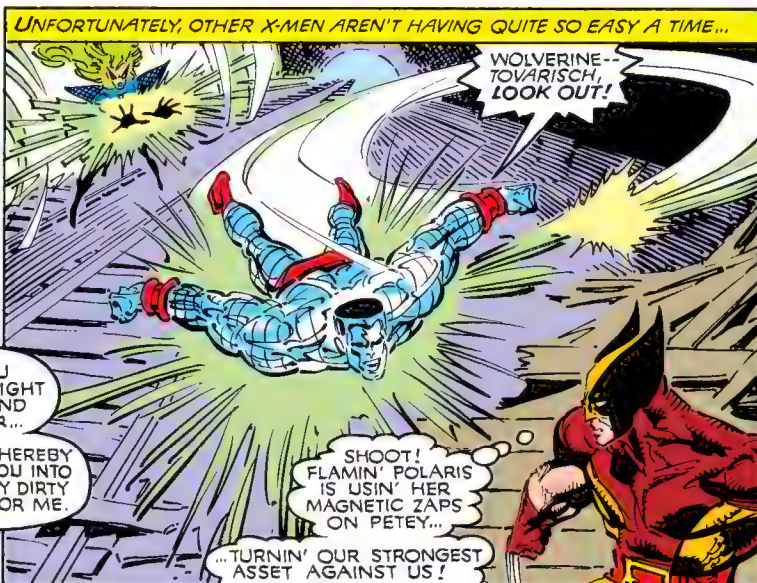
SILLY BOY--
THINKING
TO SURPRISE
A TELEPATH.

I KNEW YOU
WERE THERE.

IT WAS A
SIMPLE MATTER
TO ALTER YOUR
PERCEPTIONS.

...SO YOU
SAW ARCLIGHT
AS ME AND
ME, HER...

...AND THEREBY
TRICK YOU INTO
DOING MY DIRTY
WORK FOR ME.



UNFORTUNATELY, OTHER X-MEN AREN'T HAVING QUITE SO EASY A TIME...

WOLVERINE--
TOVARISCH,
LOOK OUT!

SHOOT!
FLAMIN' POLARIS
IS USIN' HER
MAGNETIC ZAPS
ON PETEY...

...TURNIN' OUR STRONGEST
ASSET AGAINST US!



NOT SO FAST,
POLARIS!

BOSZHE
MOI!

STORM IS
COUNTERING
LORNA'S
FORCE
BEAMS...

...WITH
HER OWN
WINDS!

MEXICAN
STANDOFF.

WHOEVER
BREAKS...

...GETS
PULPED.

HAVOK IS
FORCING
POLARIS TO
COMMIT THE
TOTALITY OF
HER STRENGTH
TO THEIR
STRUGGLE.

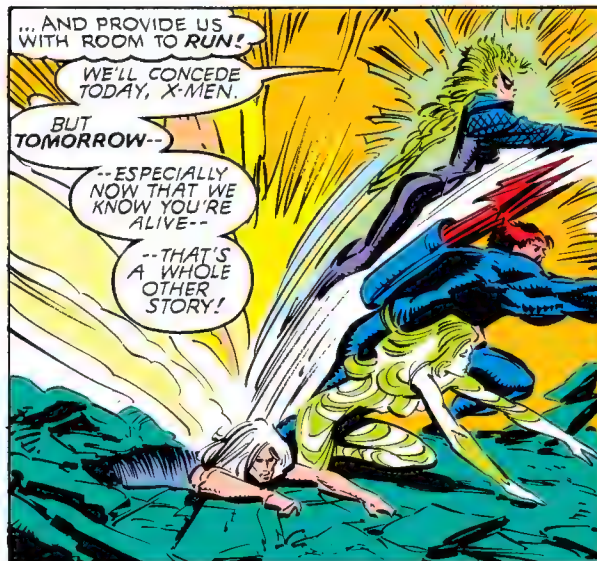
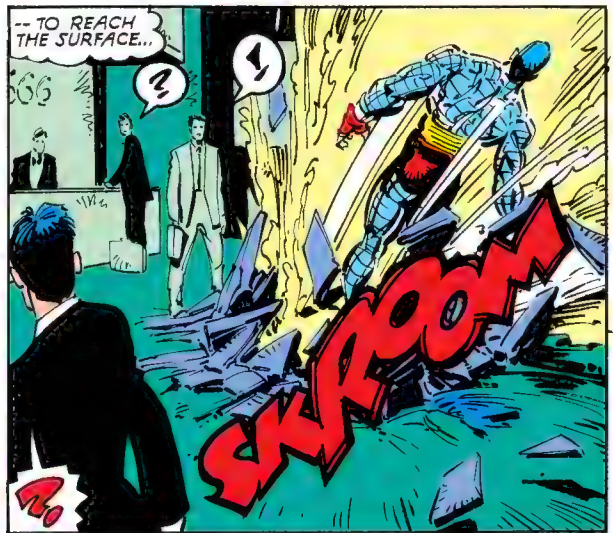
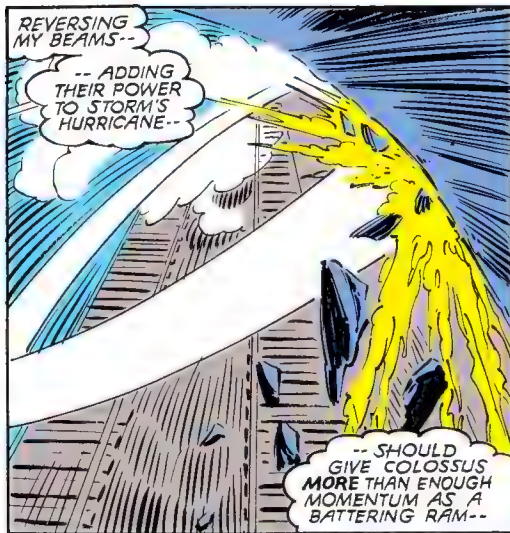
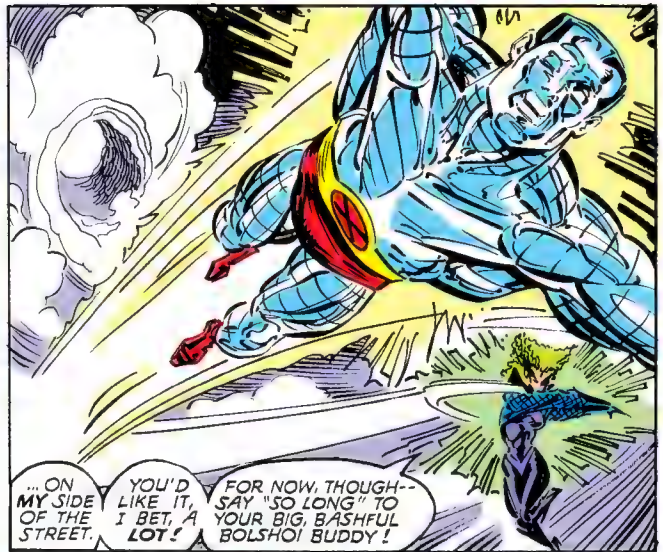
POLARIS HAS NO
RESERVE TO
SHIELD HERSELF
FROM ANY OTHER
PHYSICAL ATTACK.

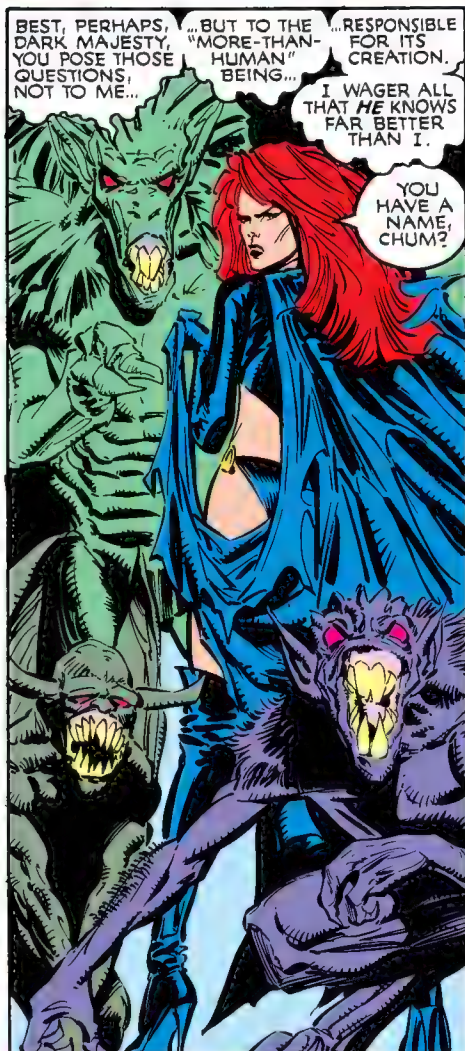
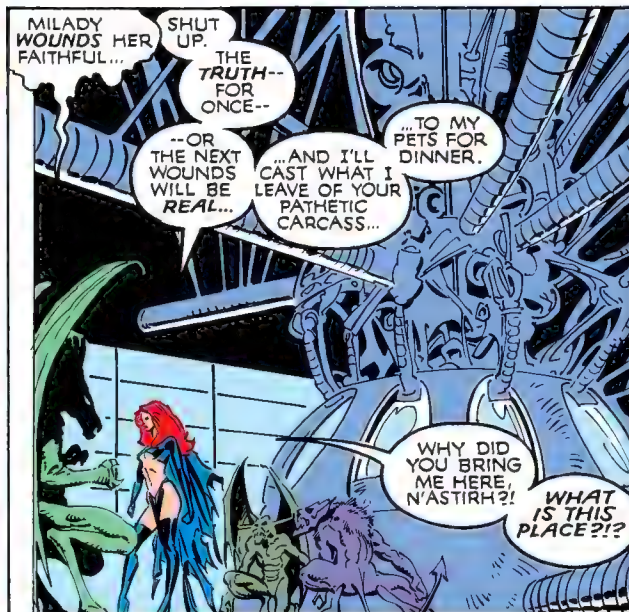


I CAN'T
FINE-TUNE
MY PLASMA
BOLTS.

PSYLOCKE,
IF I FIRE...

...I'LL
KILL
HER!





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INFERNO™



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APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

AT LAST!
THE STARTLING
SECRET OF
MADELYNE PRYOR!

A SON FOR THE GOBLIN QUEEN!

SILVESTRI GREEN

INFERNO

PART THE SECOND

PICKING UP
RIGHT WHERE
WE LEFT OFF...

... (IN THE SECRET, HIGH-
TECH CATACOMBS OF A
NEBRASKA ORPHANAGE...)

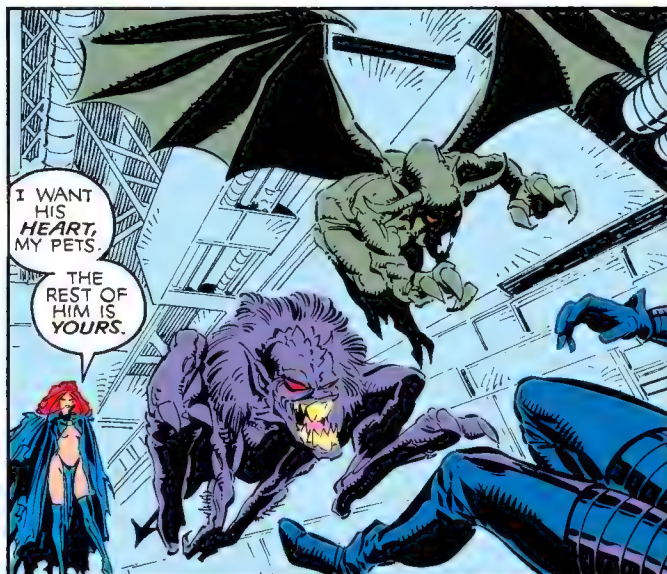
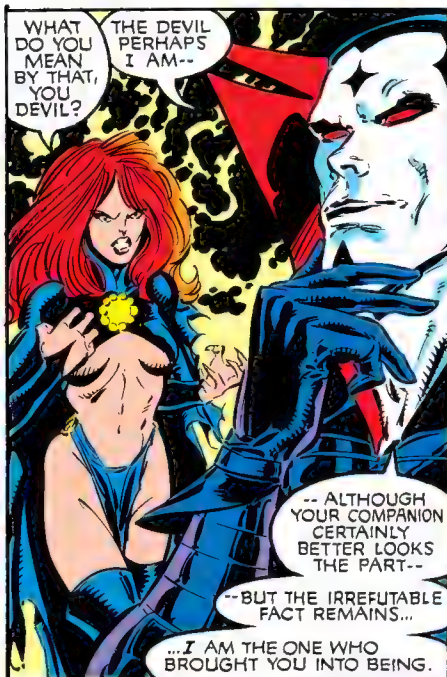
YOU
HAVE A
NAME,
CHUM?

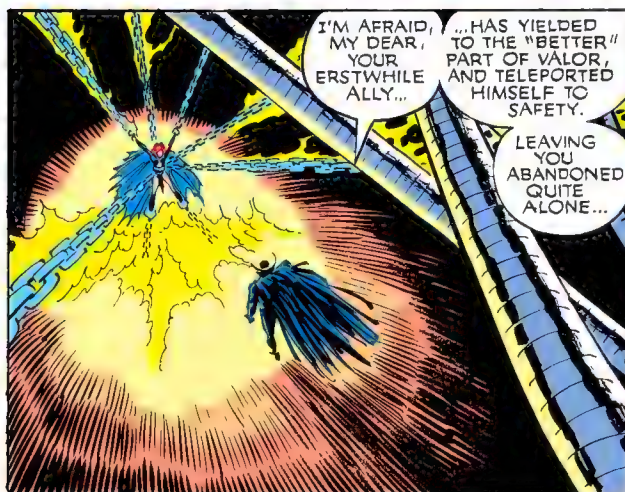
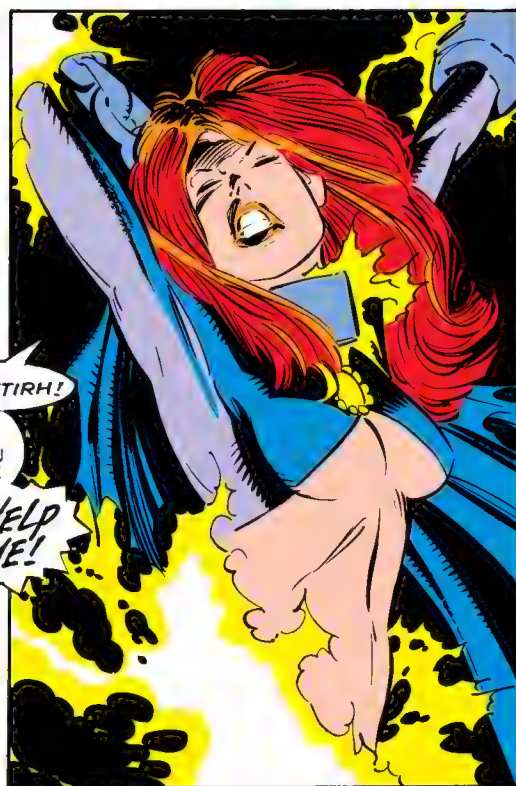
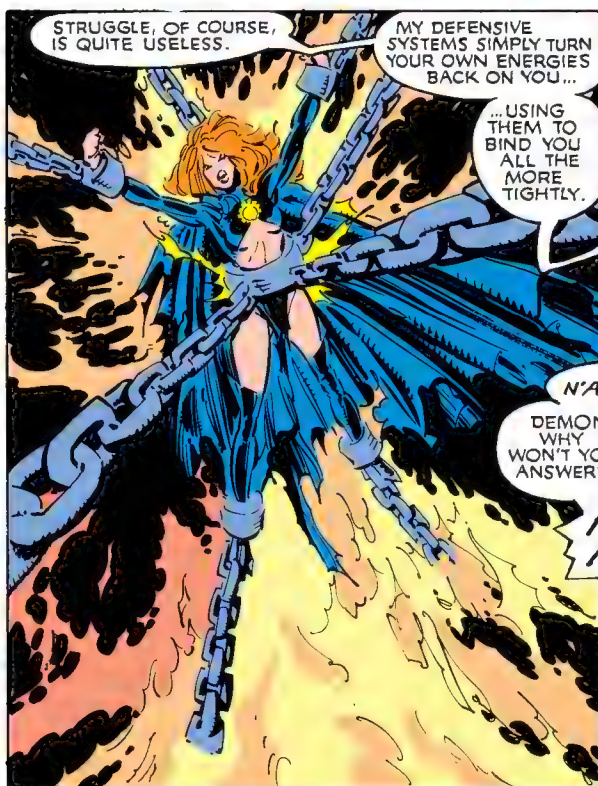
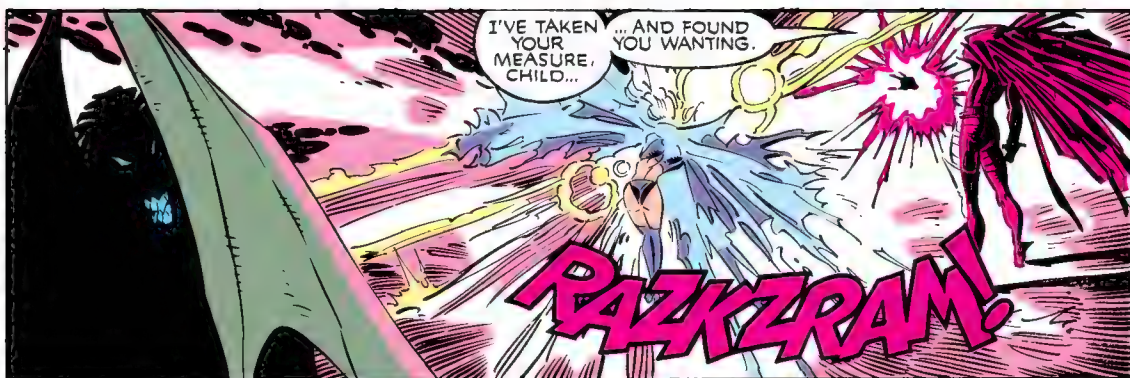
MOST
REFER
TO ME
AS...

...**MISTER
SINISTER.**

BUT YOU,
**MADELYNE
PRYOR**-- MY
PRIDE, MY FIRST
AND FOREMOST
JOY-- MAY
CALL ME...

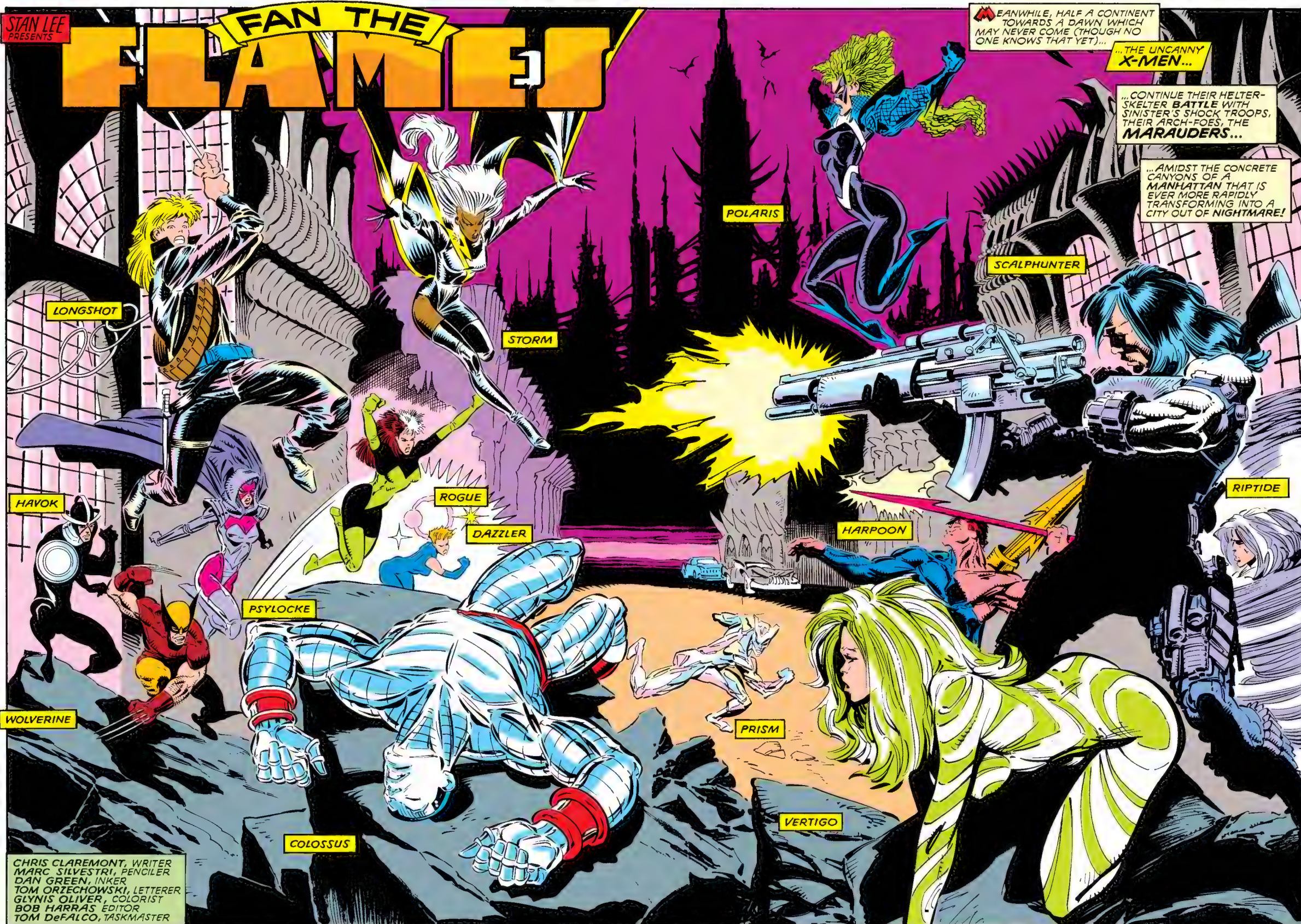
...**FATHER.**





STAN LEE
PRESENTS

FAN THE FLAMES



MEANWHILE, HALF A CONTINENT
TOWARDS A DAWN WHICH
MAY NEVER COME (THOUGH NO
ONE KNOWS THAT YET)...

...THE UNCANNY
X-MEN...

...CONTINUE THEIR HELTER-
SKELTER BATTLE WITH
SINISTER'S SHOCK TROOPS,
THEIR ARCH-FOES, THE
MARAUDERS...

...AMIDST THE CONCRETE
CANYONS OF A
MANHATTAN THAT IS
EVER MORE RAPIDLY
TRANSFORMING INTO A
CITY OUT OF NIGHTMARE!

POLARIS

SCALPHUNTER

LONGSHOT

STORM

HAVOK

ROGUE

DAZZLER

PSYLOCKE

WOLVERINE

COLOSSUS

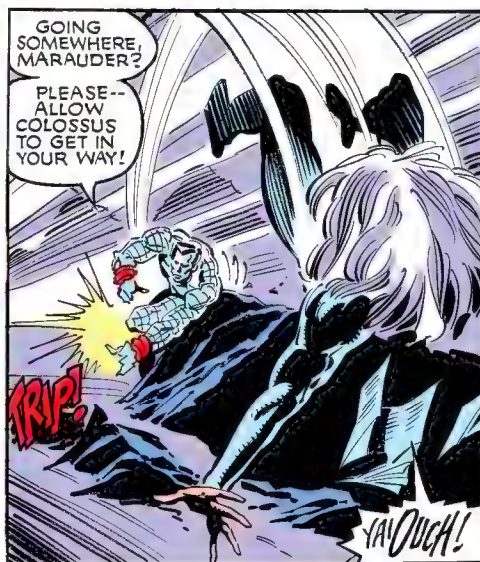
HARPOON

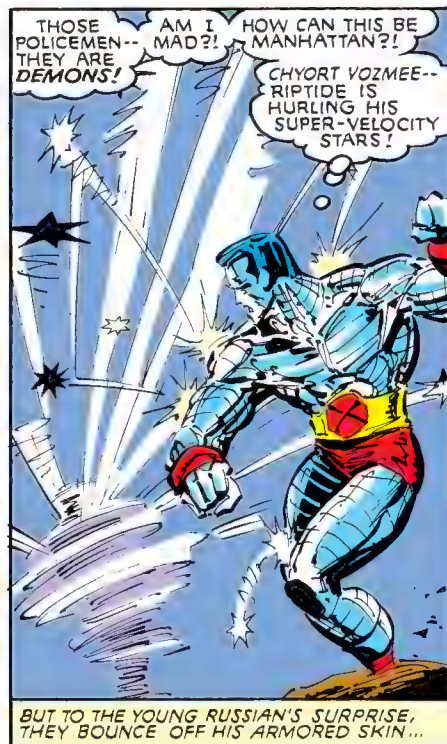
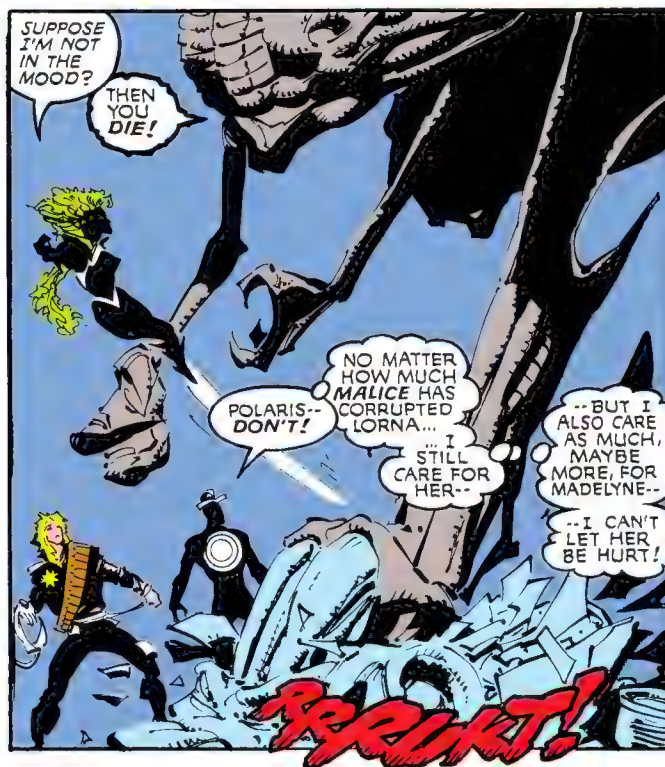
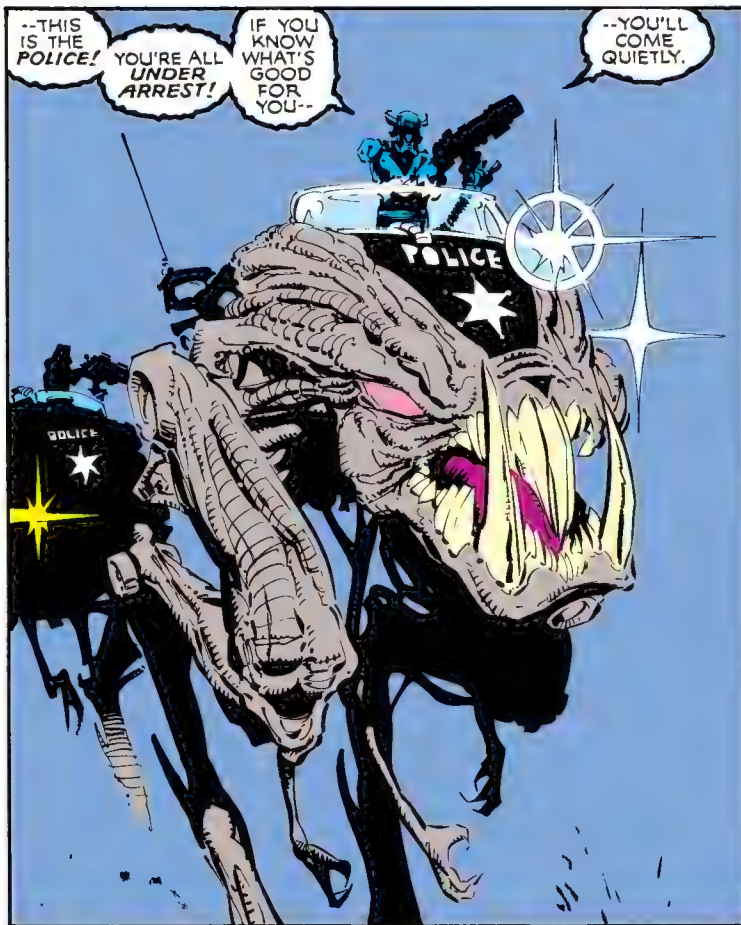
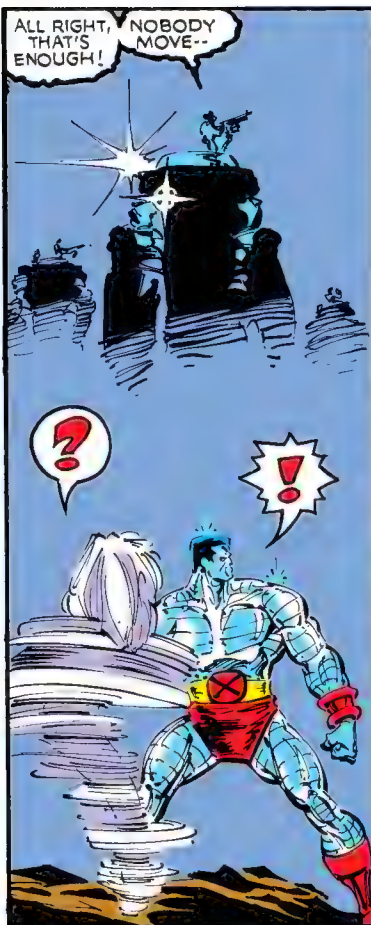
RIPTIDE

PRISM

VERTIGO

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TOM ORZECOWSKI, LETTERER
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BOB HARRAS, EDITOR
TOM DeFALCO, TASKMASTER





BUT TO THE YOUNG RUSSIAN'S SURPRISE, THEY BOUNCE OFF HIS ARMORED SKIN...



...THE COPS
AREN'T SO
LUCKY.

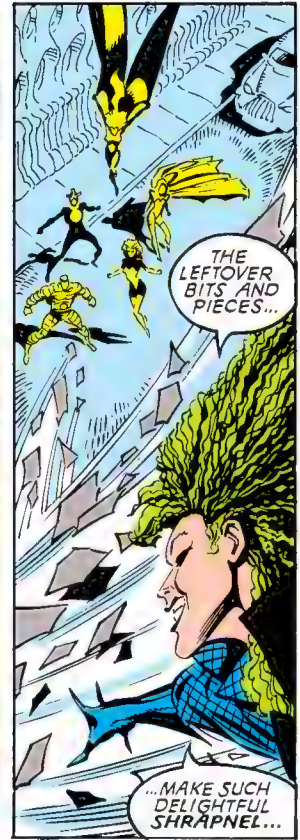


HOW CONVENIENTLY
CONSIDERATE OF
THE CITY...

...TO
SEND METAL
CRITTERS UP
AGAINST...

GROW!

...THE
**MISTRESS OF
MAGNETISM!**



THE LEFTOVER
BITS AND
PIECES...

...MAKE SUCH
DELIGHTFUL
SHRAPNEL...



"...TO HURL
AGAINST THE
X-MEN!"



AND WHILE THE
HEROES ARE NICE
AN' DISTRACTED...

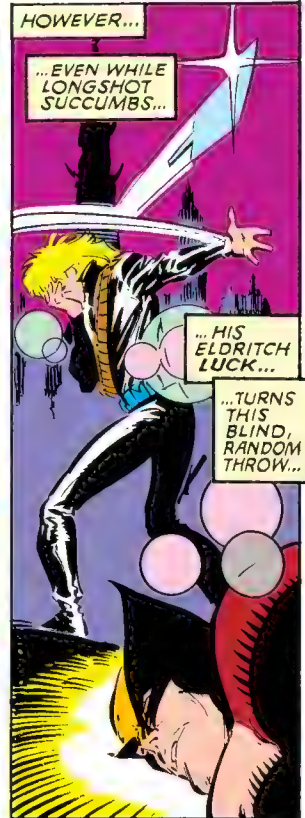
...I'LL USE MY
VERTIGO
POWER TO
TURN THEIR
WORLD
UPSIDE-
DOWN.

**RATS-R-US
PET SHOP**

MAKE 'EM
SO SICK
AN' DIZZY...

I BET
THEY'LL BE
GLAD...

...TO HAVE US
FINISH 'EM OFF.



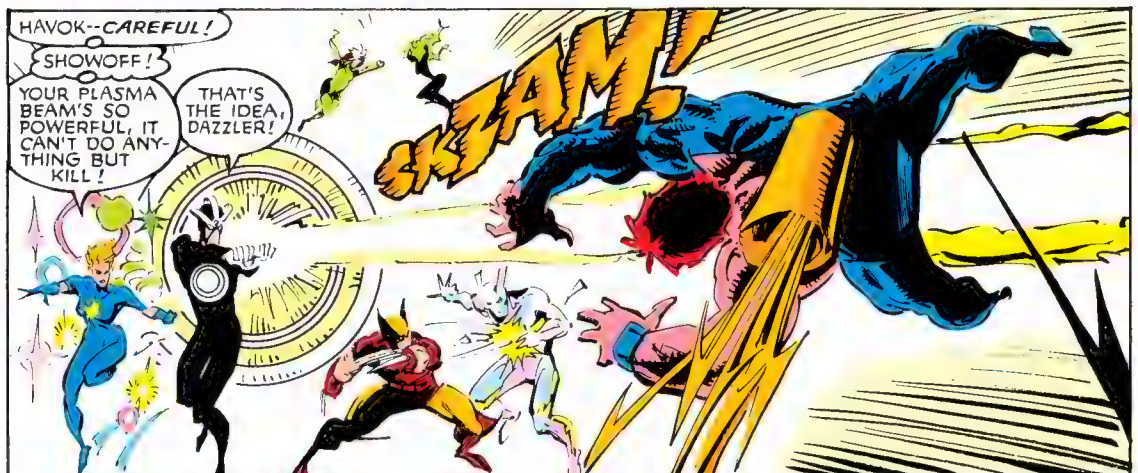
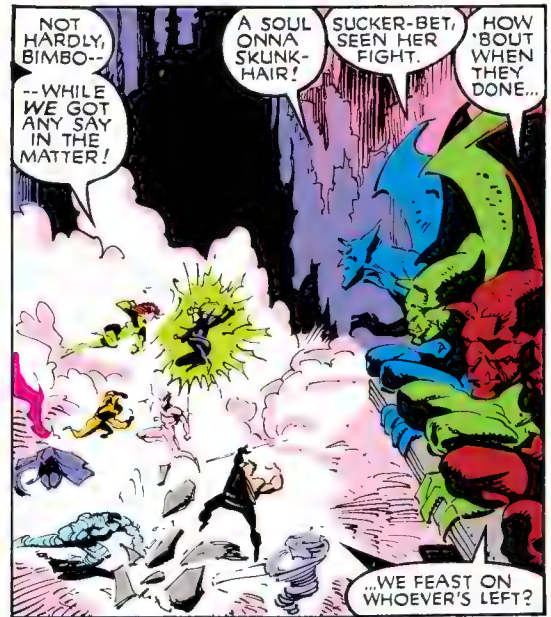
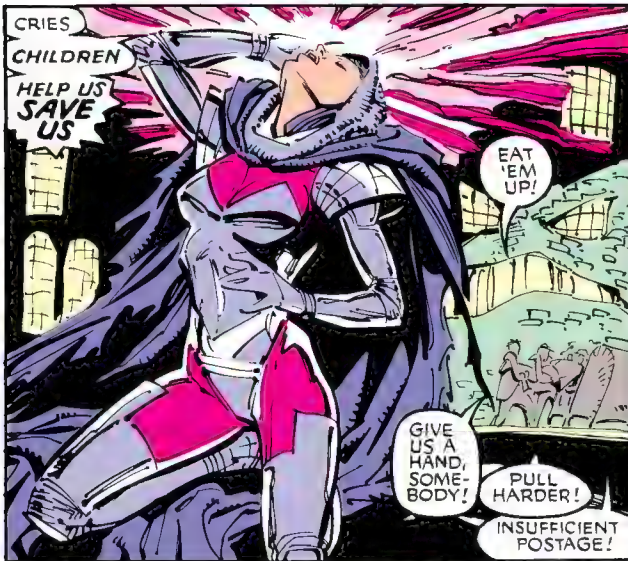
HOWEVER...

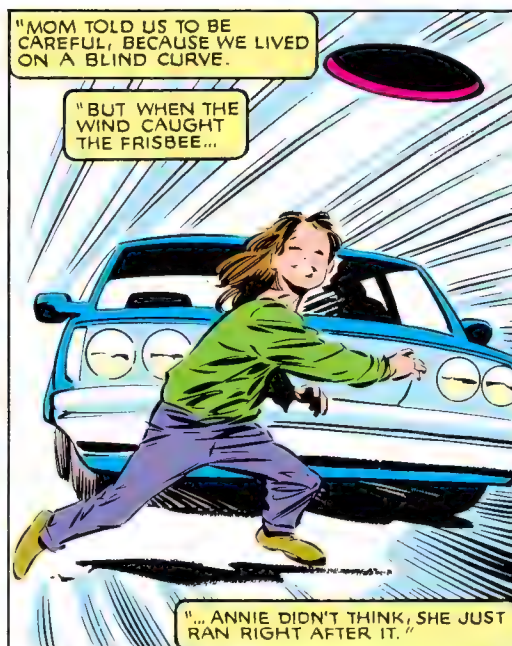
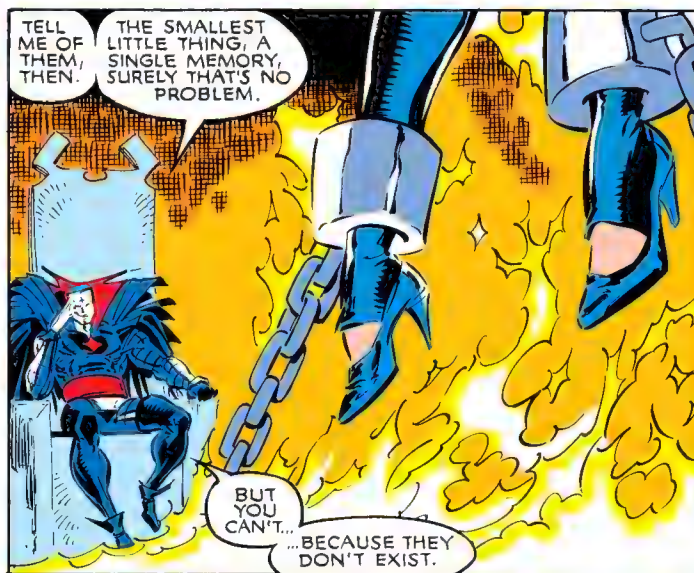
...EVEN WHILE
LONGSHOT
SUCCUMBS...

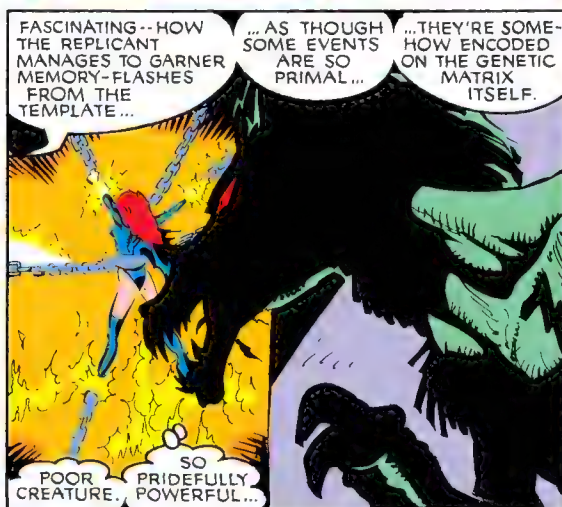
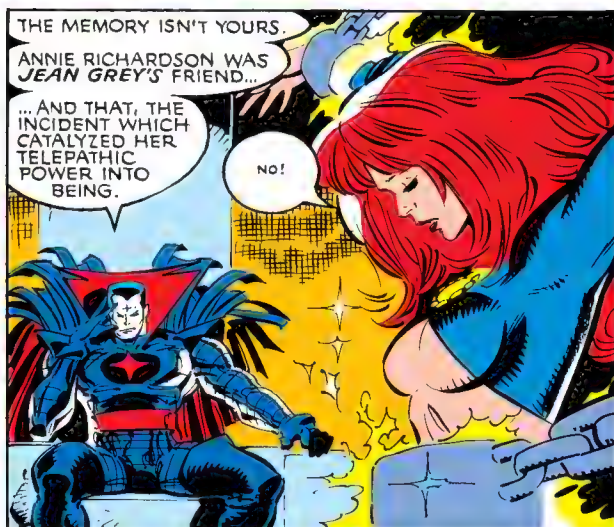
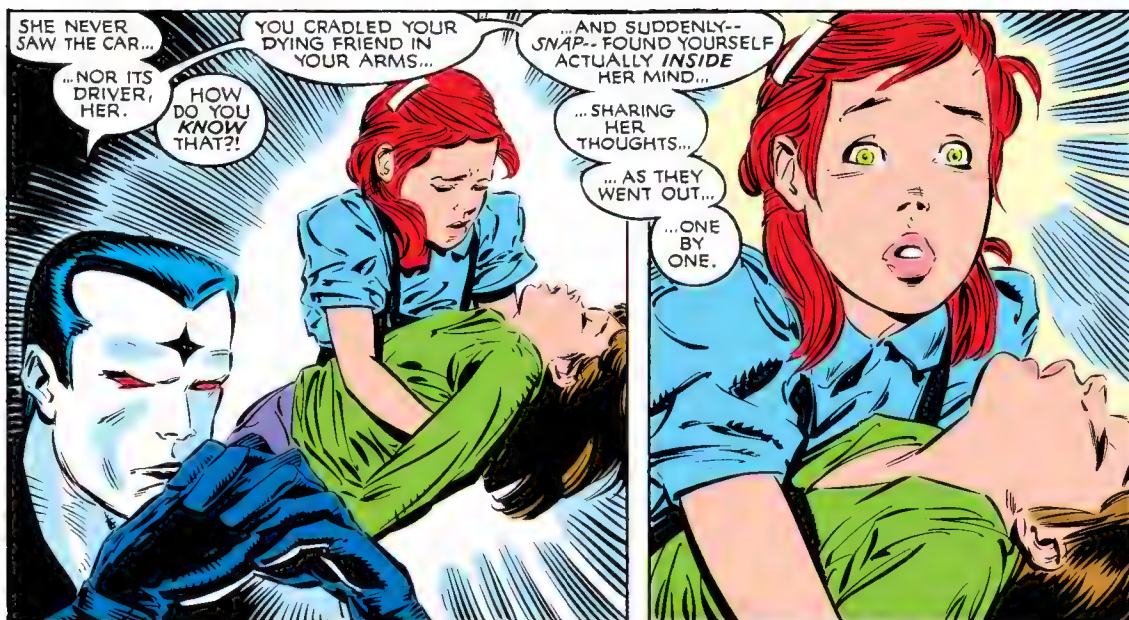
...HIS
ELDRITCH
LUCK...

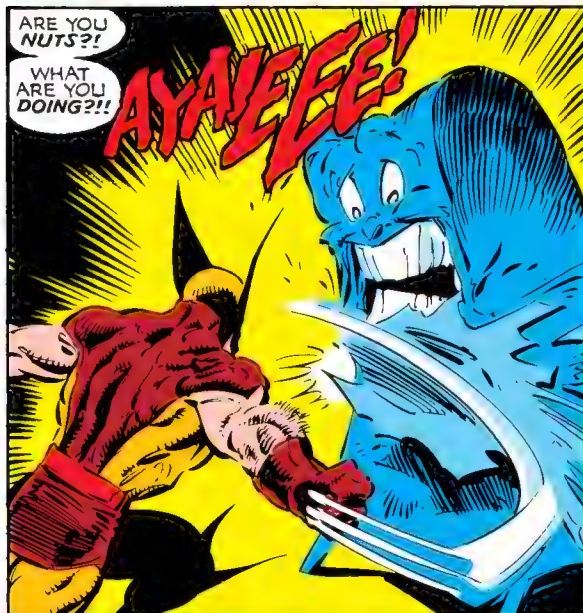
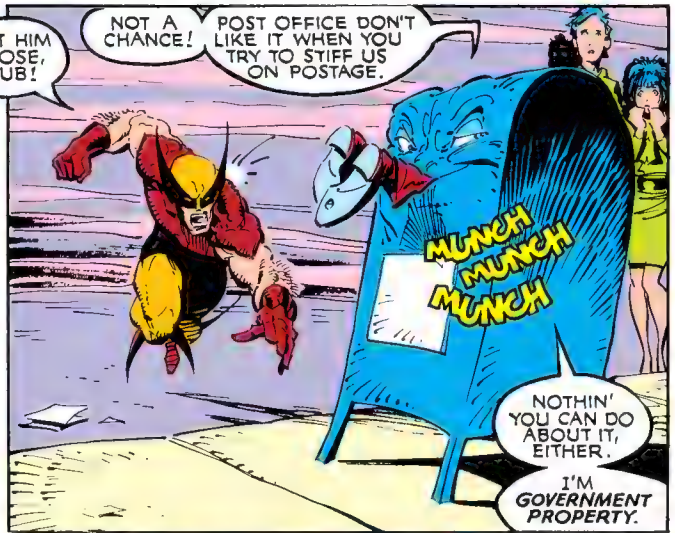
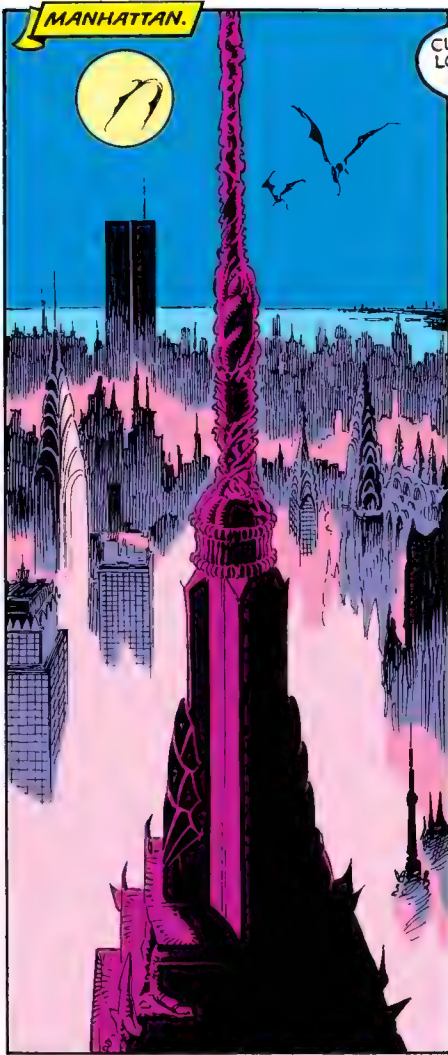
...TURNS
THIS
BLIND,
RANDOM
THROW...

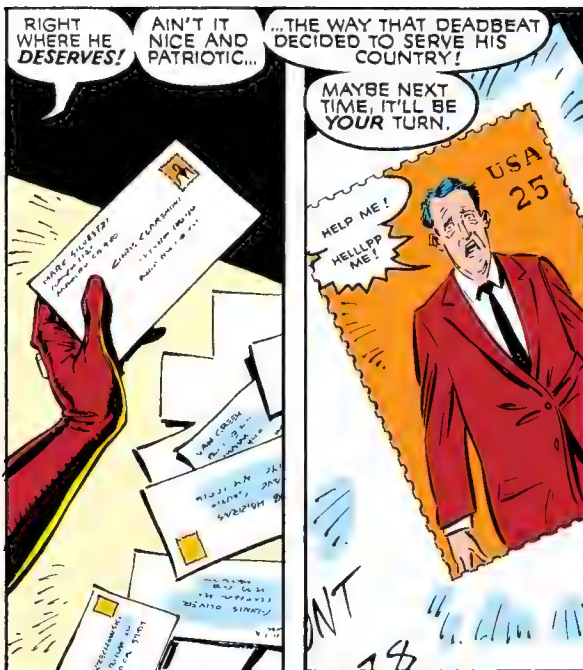












NEBRASKA.

"JEAN NEVER TOLD HER PARENTS SHE COULD READ MINDS. INSTEAD-- UNABLE TO SHUT OUT THE GROWING CACOPHONY OF THOUGHTS ASSAULTING HER--

"--SHE WITHDREW INTO HERSELF...

"...CUTTING HERSELF OFF AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE FROM ALL HUMAN CONTACT.

"IMMEDIATELY UPON LEARNING OF HER, I PLANNED TO ELIMINATE HER PARENTS AND HAVE HER RAISED HERE, AT MY ORPHANAGE, WHERE I KEPT THE OTHERS.

"BUT FATE SENT THEM TO CHARLES XAVIER, THEN A BUDDING AUTHORITY ON MUTANT GENETICS.

"AND, UNKNOWN TO THE GREYS, BOTH MUTANT AND TELEPATH HIMSELF.

"XAVIER'S PIONEERING WORK WITH JEAN WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN LEADING HIM TO FORM THE X-MEN.

"BUT WHILE HE TREATED HER, I WAS BUSY...

"...USING A BLOOD AND TISSUE SAMPLE OF THE GIRL THAT I'D PROCURED...

"...TO CREATE A 'JEAN GREY' OF MY OWN.

YOU SHOULD FEEL PROUD, MADELYNE.

SHE WAS HIS PREMIER SUCCESS, YOU WERE MINE.

"SOME MUTANT ABILITIES MANIFEST THEMSELVES AT BIRTH, MOST AT PUBERTY.

"YOURS, INEXPLICABLY, DID NEITHER.

"I CONFESS, I WAS DISAPPOINTED. BITTERLY. ALL THAT TIME AND EFFORT, WASTED.

"BUT THEN, ONE NIGHT..."

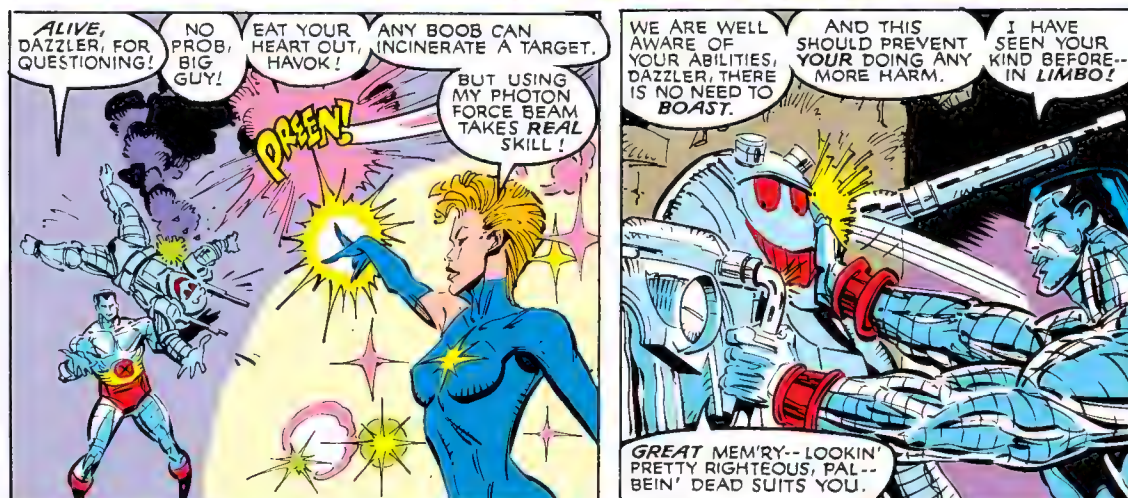
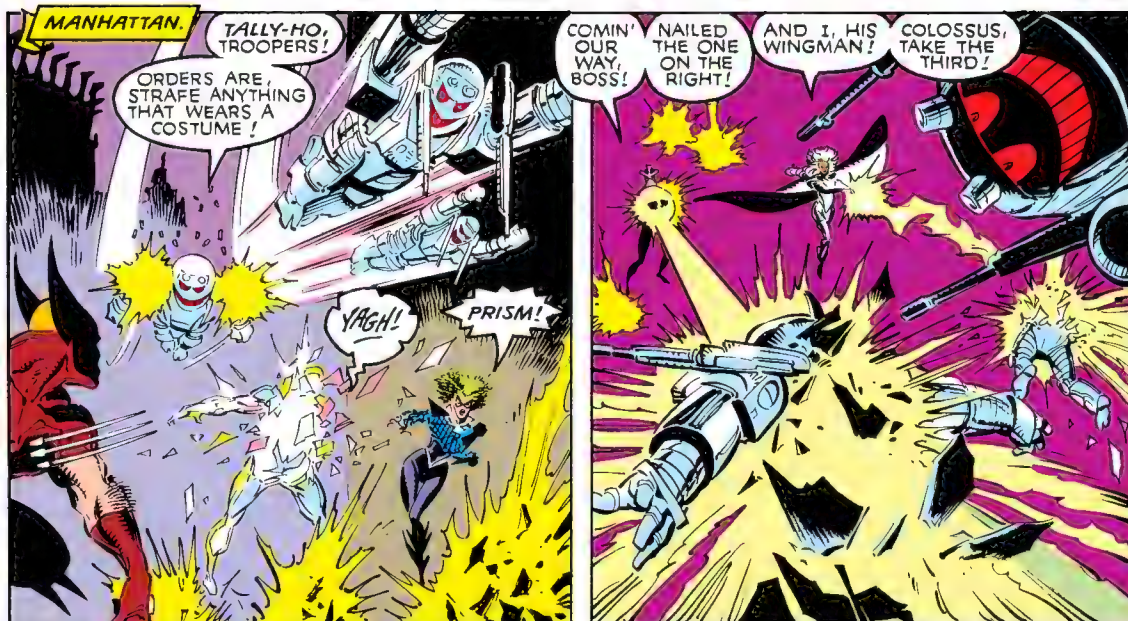
SCOTT!

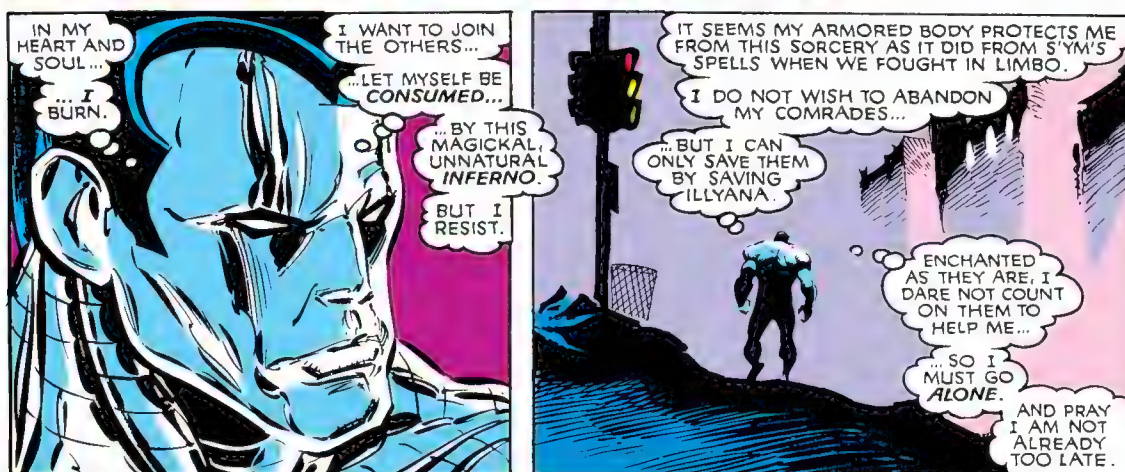
FIRE...

...LIFE INCARNATE...

...NOW... FOREVER...

...PHOENIX...





NEBRASKA. --ESPECIALLY ONCE I LEARNED THAT MANIFESTATION OCCURRED AT PRECISELY THE MOMENT **PHOENIX** SACRIFICED HIMSELF ON THE MOON, TO SAVE THE UNIVERSE FROM THE DARK SIDE OF HER NATURE.

CURIOUSER, I THOUGHT, AND CURIOUSER--

THINK, MADELYNE-- THE INSTANT OF HER DEATH...

... WAS YOUR BIRTH.

I WONDERED THEN IF CLONE AND ORIGINAL WERE BOUND PSYCHICALLY, IN MUCH THE SAME MANNER AS IDENTICAL TWINS?

YOU POSSESSED ALL JEAN'S GENETIC POTENTIAL, IF NOT HER POWERS--AND, PERHAPS, HER RESONANCE WITH THIS "PHOENIX" FORCE.

IF COMBINED WITH SCOTT SUMMERS, THE PRODUCT OF SUCH A UNION SHOULD PROVE QUITE EXCEPTIONAL.

SO-- I PROVIDED YOU WITH AN APPROPRIATE "COVER" MEMORY...

...PLUS A CHARACTER SURE TO ATTRACT HIM...

...AND PLACED YOU WITH HIS GRANDPARENTS' AIRLINE IN ALASKA.

I KNEW, ONCE YOU MET--

--AND, IF NECESSARY, I WAS PREPARED TO ENSURE YOU WOULD--

-- NATURE WOULD TAKE ITS INEVITABLE COURSE.

WHICH IT DID.

YOU USED ME!

CHILD, THAT'S WHY YOU WERE MADE.

BUT WITH MS. GREY'S "RESURRECTION" CAME A PROBLEM.

BEING A TELEPATH-- AND, MORE IMPORTANTLY, YOUR TEMPLATE--

--SHE'D SENSE THE TRUTH THE MOMENT YOU MET.

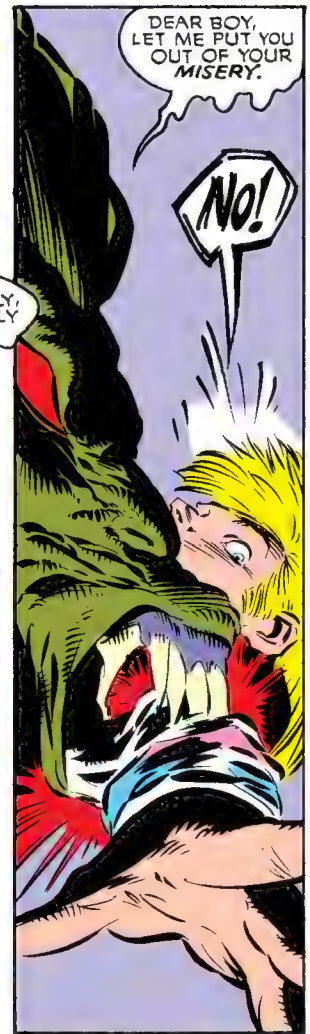
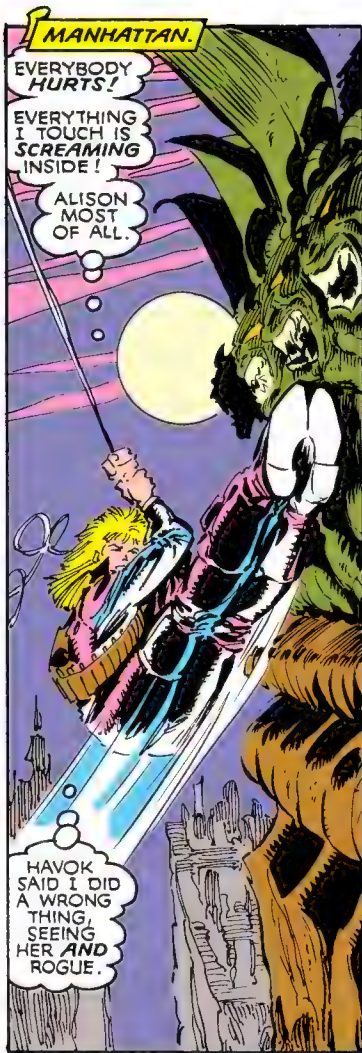
TO PROTECT MY ORGANIZATION, YOU HAD TO BE ELIMINATED.

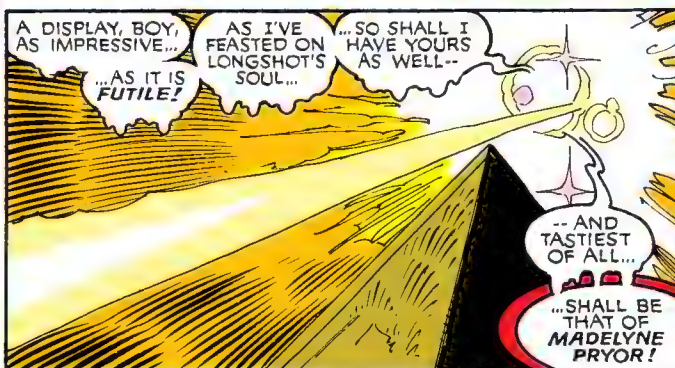
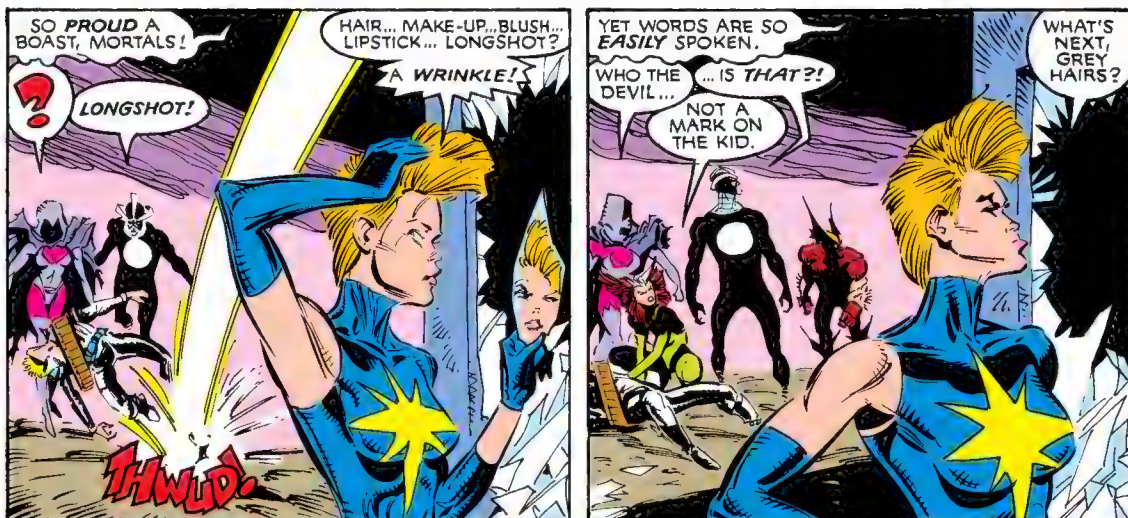
BY THAT STROKE, I'D GAIN YOUR BABY FOR MYSELF...

...WHILE COVERING MY TRACKS SO THOROUGHLY, SCOTT SUMMERS WOULD NEVER FIND ME.

BUT YOUR MARAUDERS...

...BOTCHED THE JOB.







...WILL HAVE TO WAIT...

QUITE CORRECT, THE MARAUDERS SHOULDN'T HAVE FAILED-- THEY WERE CERTAIN THEY HADN'T--YET THEY DID.

BUT THEN, YOU DIED-- ALONG WITH THE X-MEN-- IN FULL VIEW OF THE ENTIRE WORLD.

ONLY TO REAPPEAR HERE, ALIVE, APPARENTLY, "INVISIBLE" TO MY SENSORS, ABLE TO BYPASS MY DEFENSES AND ENTER MY SANCTUM WITH IMPUNITY.

NOT ONLY CONSORTING WITH WHAT CAN ONLY BE DESCRIBED AS "DEMONS," BUT POSSESSED OF CONSIDERABLE POWER YOURSELF.



PERHAPS WHEN I DIED, I MADE A DEAL WITH THE DEVIL...

...TO COME COLLECT YOU DOWN TO JOIN HIM.



WE SHALL SEE.

I LOOK FORWARD TO TAKING YOU APART, MADELYNE...

...AND DISCOVERING HOW YOU'VE CHANGED.

THAT'S RIGHT, I FORGOT.

THE BROOD MARE'S FULFILLED HER PURPOSE.

YOU HAVE YOUR PRIZE, MY BABY.

YOU DON'T NEED ME ANYMORE.

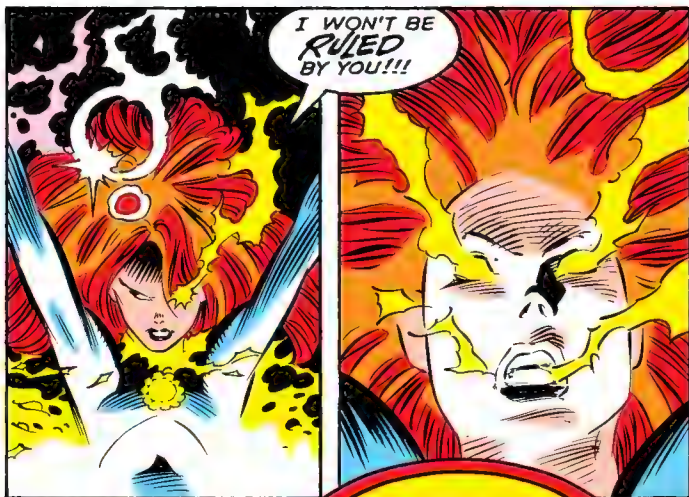


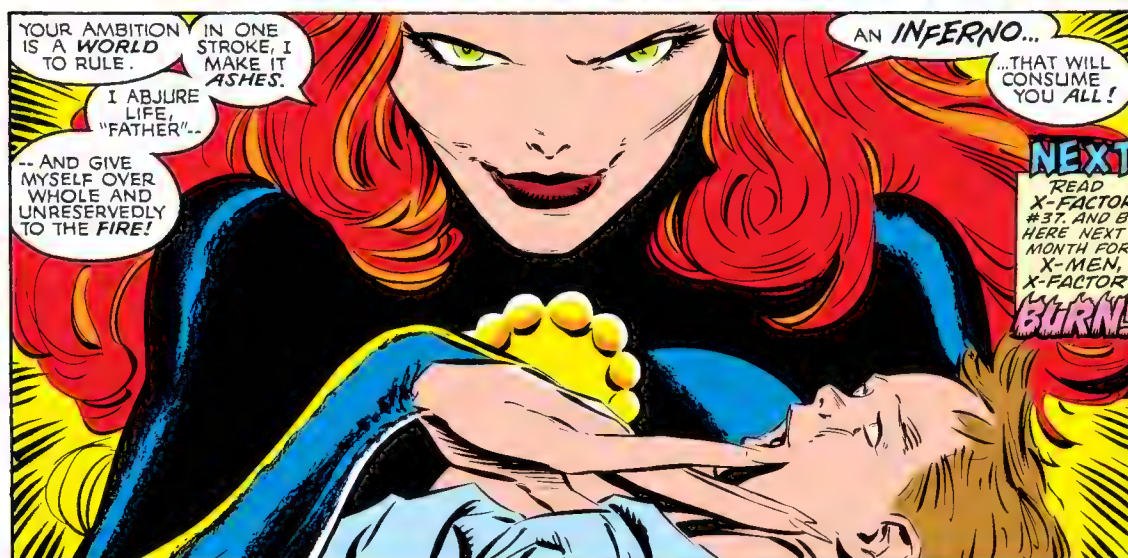
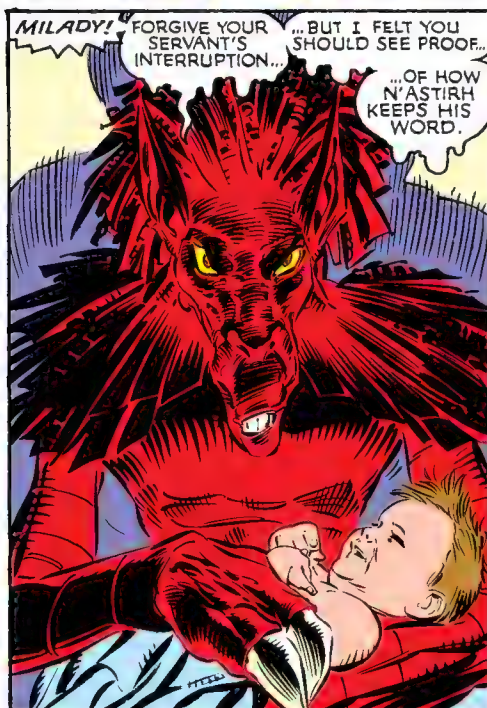
ONLY ASSETS HAVE VALUE--

WH?!?!



I DON'T BELONG TO YOU, SINISTER!





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FACTOR



FOR OVER A CENTURY, MANHATTAN HAS FLASHED MAN'S DEFIANT CHALLENGE TO AN UNCARING COSMOS:
 "KNOW US BY OUR LIGHTS. WE ARE LORDS OF THIS WORLD. AND WE SHINE AS BRIGHTLY AS YOUR STARS."



AT LAST...
 FINALLY...
 THE DEMON
 EFFECT IS
 FADING.*

BUT NOW, A SORCEROUS BUBBLE
 OF HEAT AND HAZE TRAPS THE
 CITY'S LIGHTS AND SILENCES
 MAN'S GLITTERING PROMISE.

DEMONS HAVE ENTERED
 MAN'S WORLD AND VIE FOR
 LORDSHIP OF HIS DOMAIN.

I CAN
 FEEL LITTLE
 CHRISTOPHER'S
 PRESENCE
 SCOTT...SO
 NEAR NOW.

KEEP
 TABS
 ON HIM,
 JEANIE.

WE BLAST
 THROUGH THIS
 FINAL DEMON
 ONSLAUGHT,
 CYCLOPS, AND
 WE'RE HOME
 FREE!

* THANKS TO THE
 HEROIC EFFORTS OF
 NEW MUTANTS,
 X-TERMINATORS AND
 OTHERS TOO NUMEROUS
 TO NAME HERE. --BOB

LOUISE SIMONSON WRITER WALTER SIMONSON PENCILER BOB WIACEK INKER JOE ROSEN LETTERER PETRA SCOTESI COLORIST BOB HARRAS EDITOR TOM DEFALCO EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

A MATTER OF HONOR



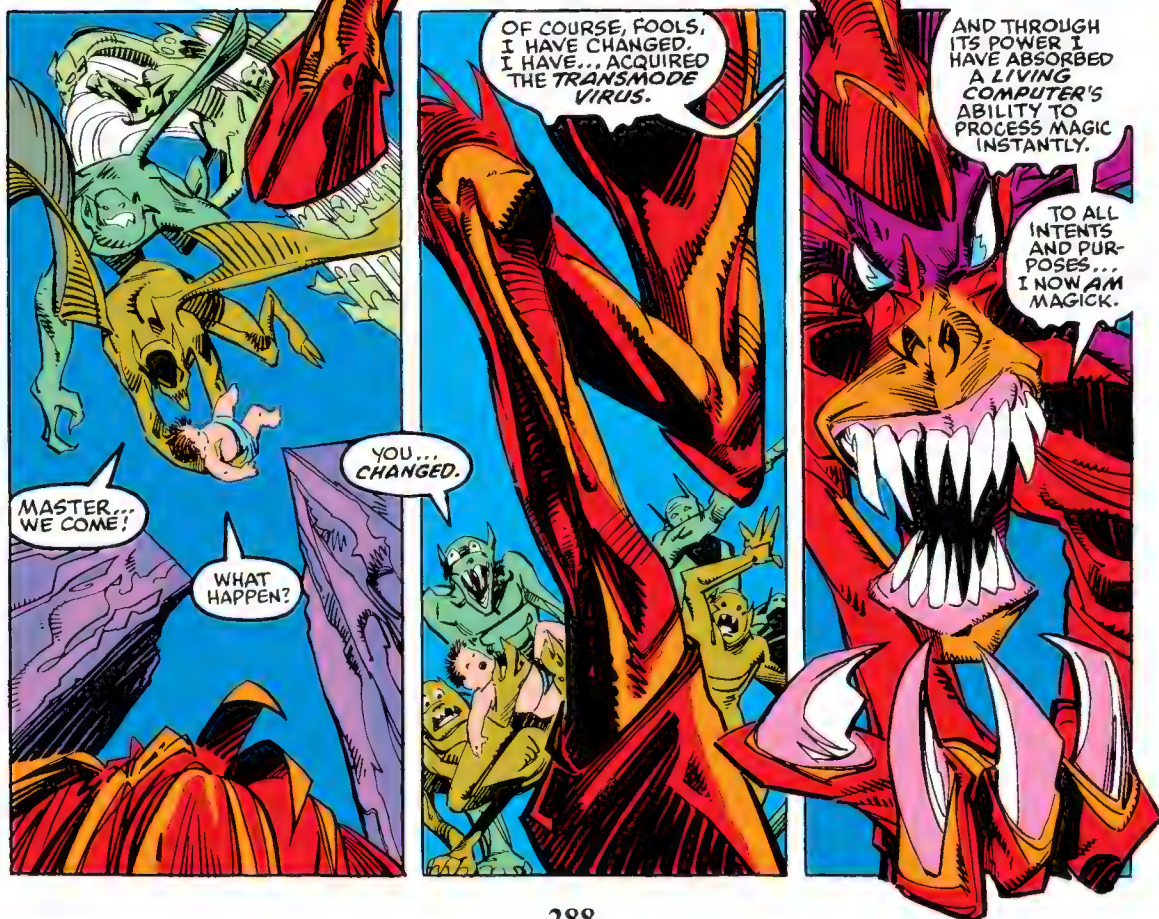
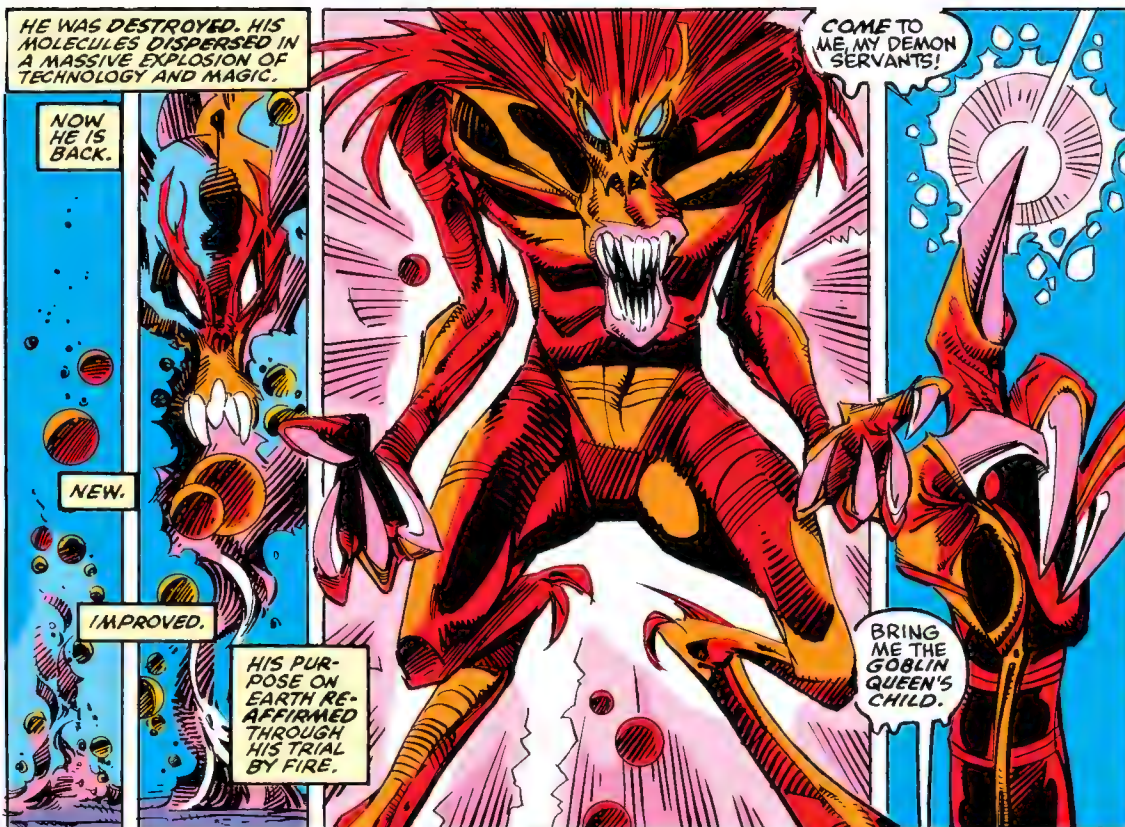
AND, I'LL HOLD MY SON IN MY--

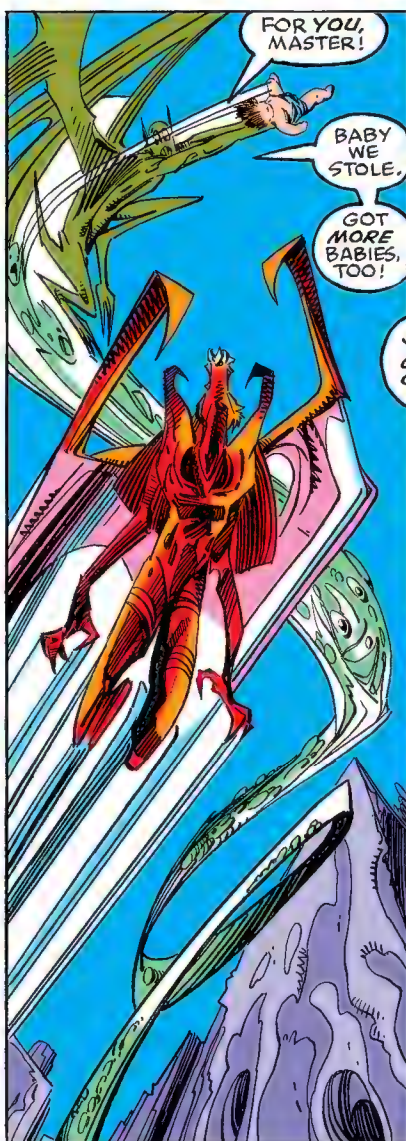
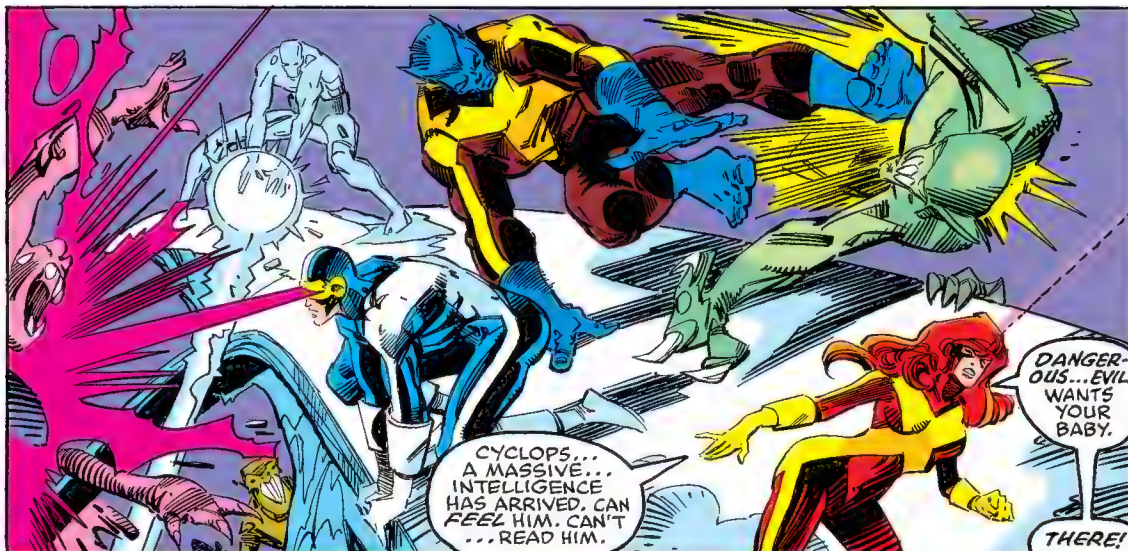
OH, MY STARS AND GARTERS!

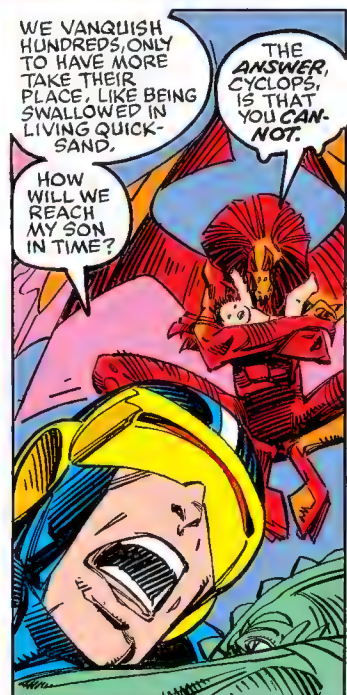
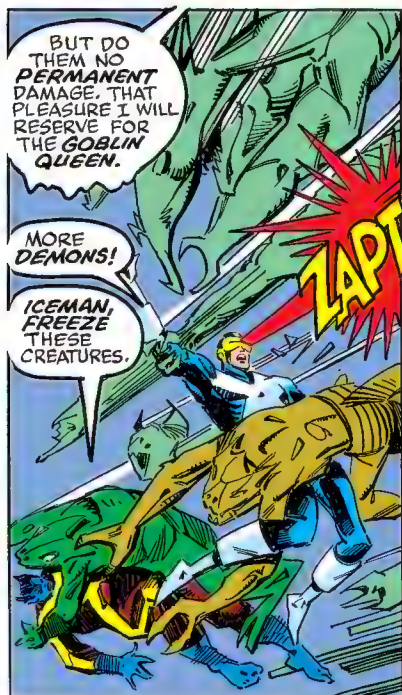
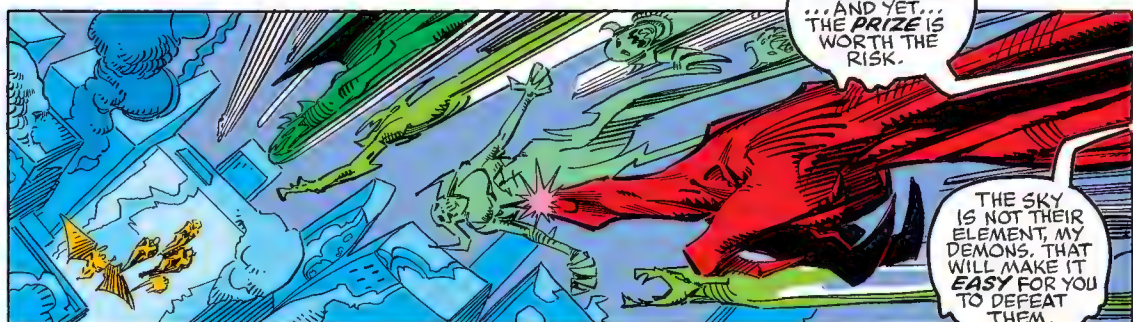
ICEMAN, MY OPTIMISTIC FRIEND, DID YOU SAY... HOME FREE...?

THE CITY-- ITS BUILDINGS... IT'S ALL GONE TOTALLY NUTS!

YOU'RE THE BRAIN, BEAST! SO YOU TELL ME... WHAT CAN BE CAUSING THIS MADNESS...?

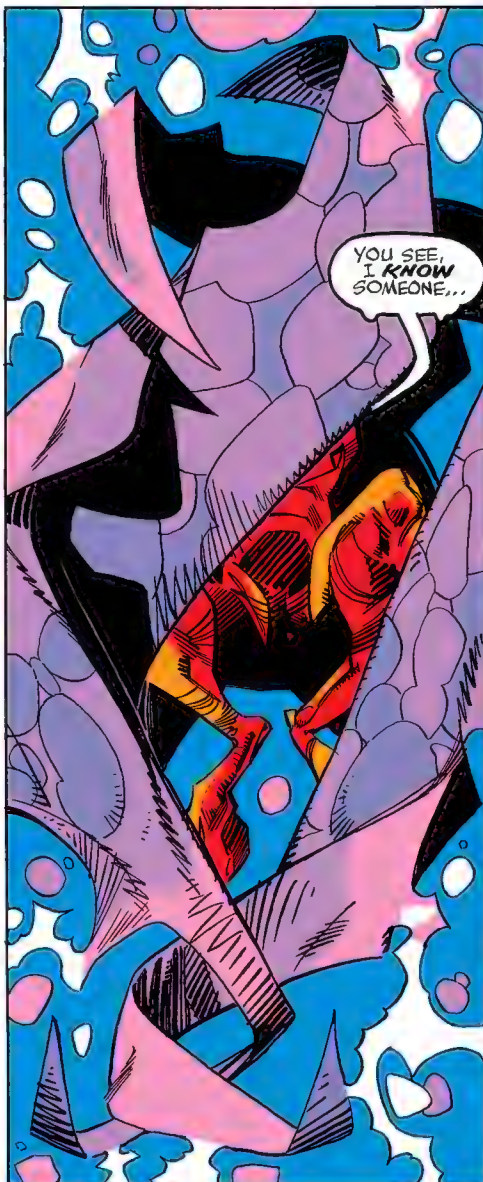




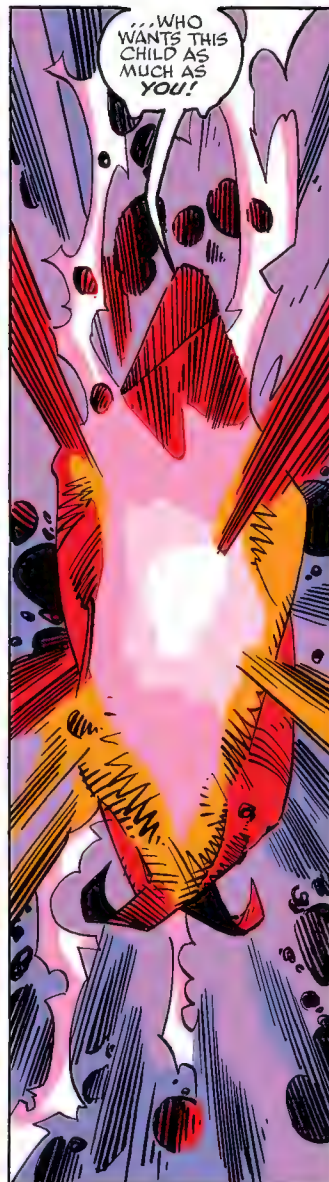




MY SERVANTS
WILL **BURY**
YOU, AS I HAVE
COMMANDED.



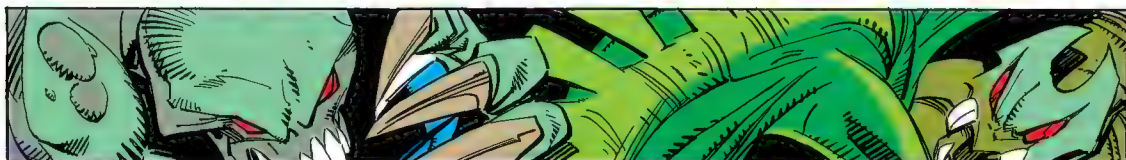
YOU SEE,
I **KNOW**
SOMEONE...



...WHO
WANTS THIS
CHILD AS
MUCH AS
you!

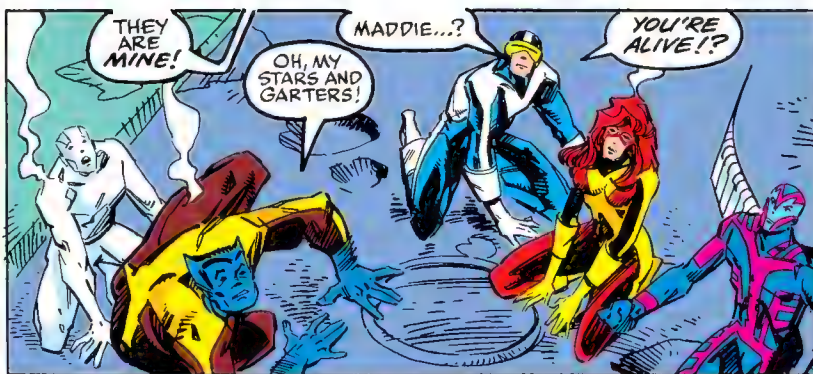


NO!





AWAY FROM THEM, CREATURES!



THEY ARE MINE!

MADDIE...?

OH, MY STARS AND GARTERS!

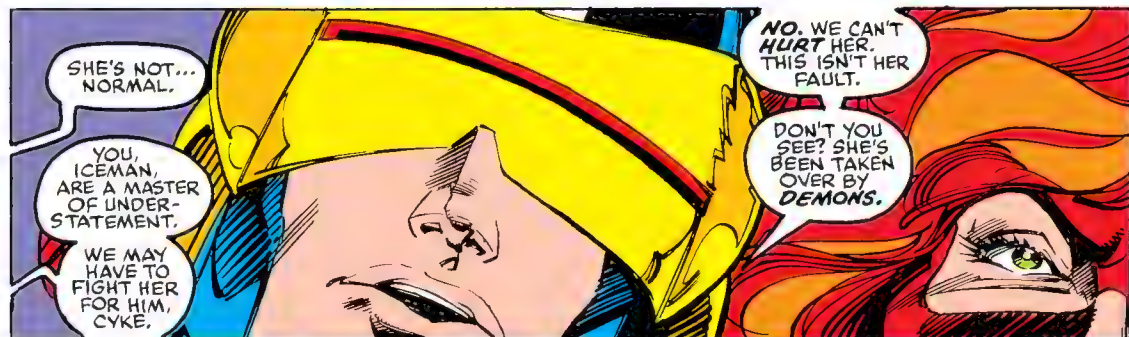
YOU'RE ALIVE!?



DON'T CALL ME THAT!

WHAT...WHAT SHOULD WE CALL YOU?

YOU MAY CALL ME YOUR GOBLIN MAJESTY.



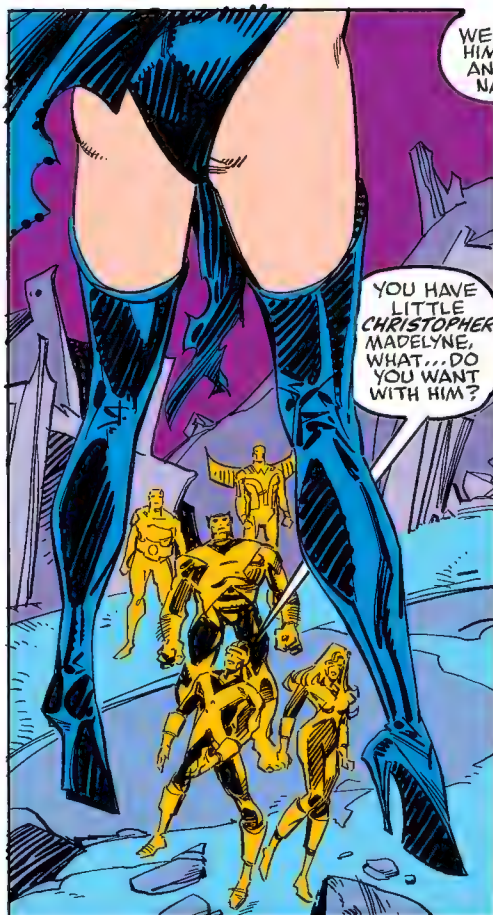
SHE'S NOT... NORMAL.

YOU, ICEMAN, ARE A MASTER OF UNDER-STATEMENT.

WE MAY HAVE TO FIGHT HER FOR HIM, CYKE.

NO. WE CAN'T HURT HER. THIS ISN'T HER FAULT.

DON'T YOU SEE? SHE'S BEEN TAKEN OVER BY DEMONS.

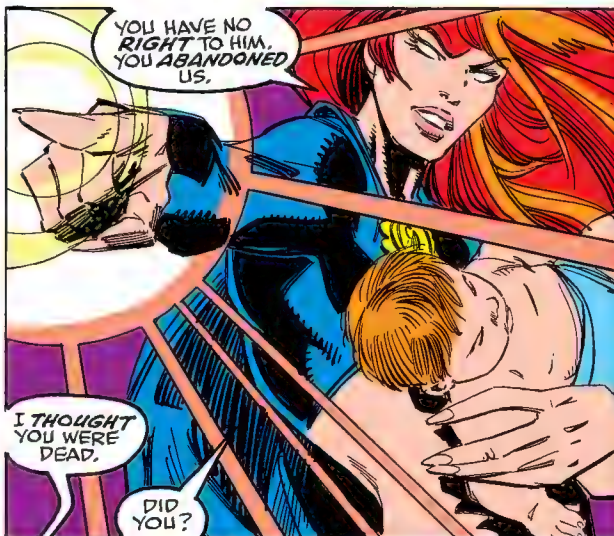


WE DON'T CALL HIM CHRISTOPHER, ANYMORE. HIS NAME IS NATHAN.

YOU HAVE LITTLE CHRISTOPHER, MADELYNE, WHAT... DO YOU WANT WITH HIM?



YOU ALWAYS HATED THAT NAME, DIDN'T YOU? THE LITTLE BULLY IN THE ORPHAN-AGE, AS I REMEMBER.



YOU HAVE NO RIGHT TO HIM, YOU ABANDONED US,

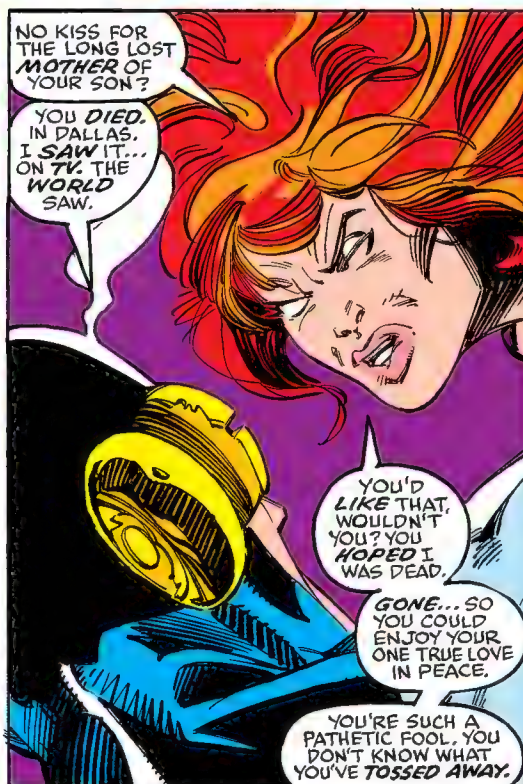
I THOUGHT YOU WERE DEAD.

DID YOU?



WHAT DO YOU THINK NOW?

SHRAKT!



NO KISS FOR THE LONG LOST MOTHER OF YOUR SON?

YOU DIED. IN DALLAS. I SAW IT... ON TV. THE WORLD SAW.

YOU'D LIKE THAT, WOULDN'T YOU? YOU HOPED I WAS DEAD.

GONE... SO YOU COULD ENJOY YOUR ONE TRUE LOVE IN PEACE.

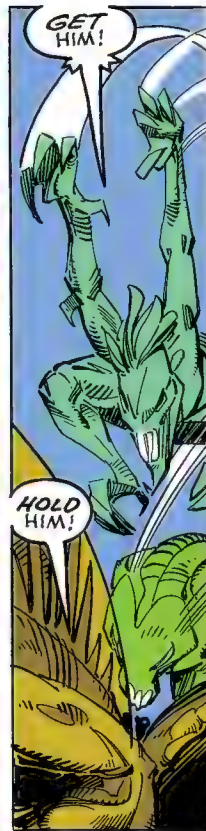
YOU'RE SUCH A PATHETIC FOOL, YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'VE TOSSED AWAY.



WHAT HAVE YOU BECOME?



WHAT YOU HAVE MADE OF ME! YOU... AND OTHERS.



GET HIM!

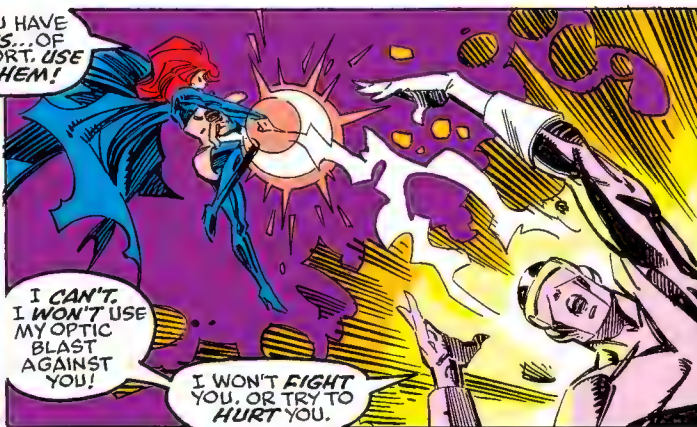
HOLD HIM!



GET AWAY FROM ME, YOU MONSTERS.

MADELYNE, WHAT DO YOU MEAN YOU'RE WHAT I'VE MADE OF YOU?

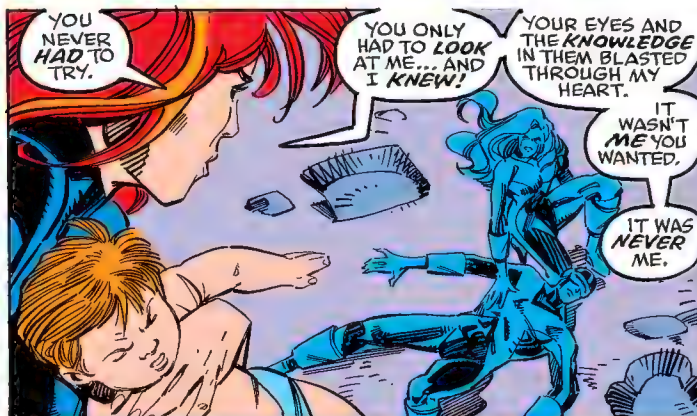
ZAPT!



YOU HAVE EYES... OF A SORT. USE THEM!

I CAN'T. I WON'T USE MY OPTIC BLAST AGAINST YOU!

I WON'T FIGHT YOU, OR TRY TO HURT YOU.



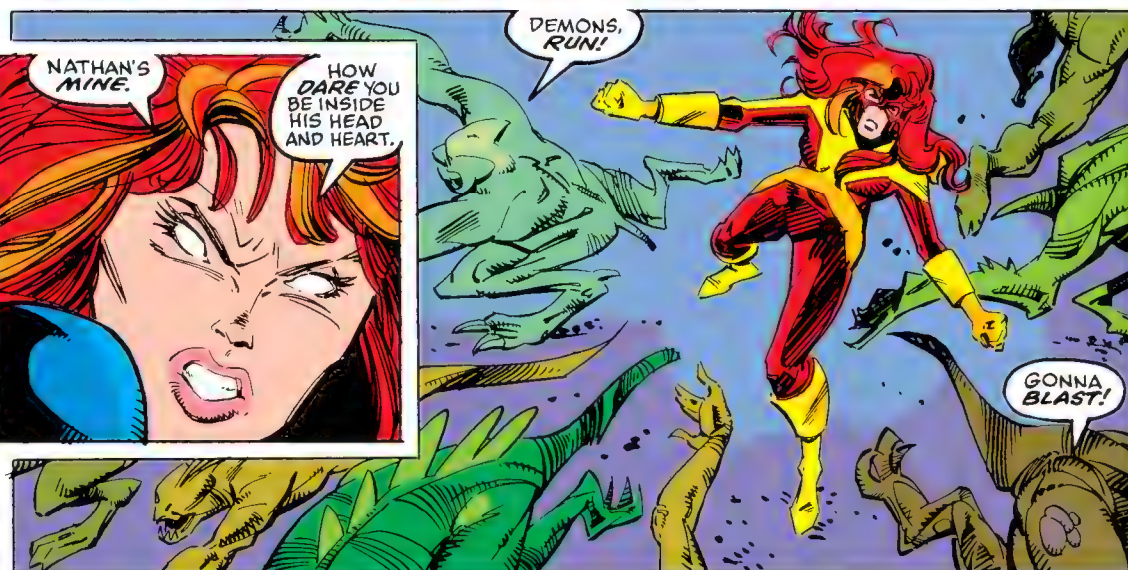
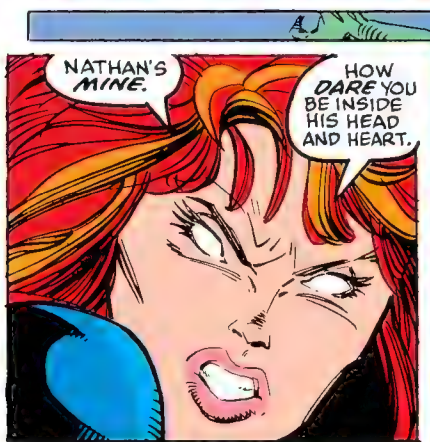
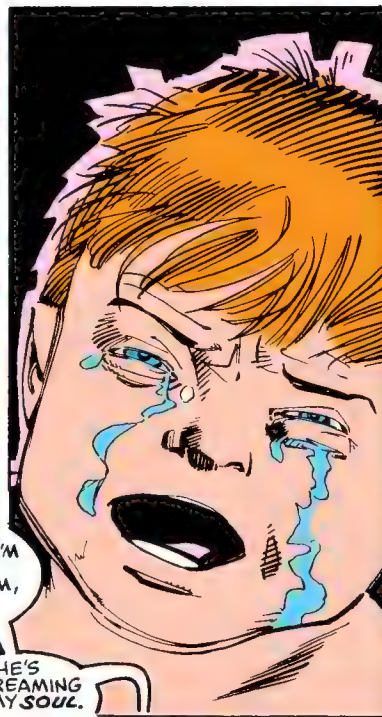
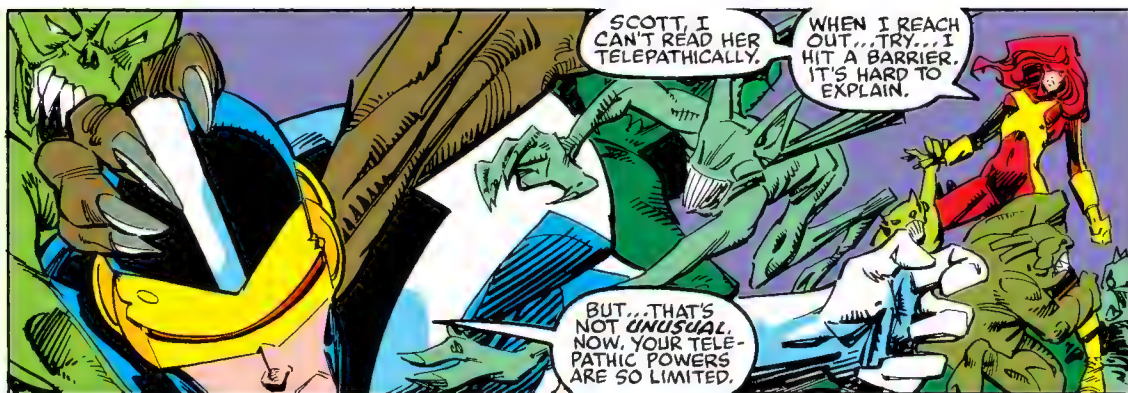
YOU NEVER HAD TO TRY.

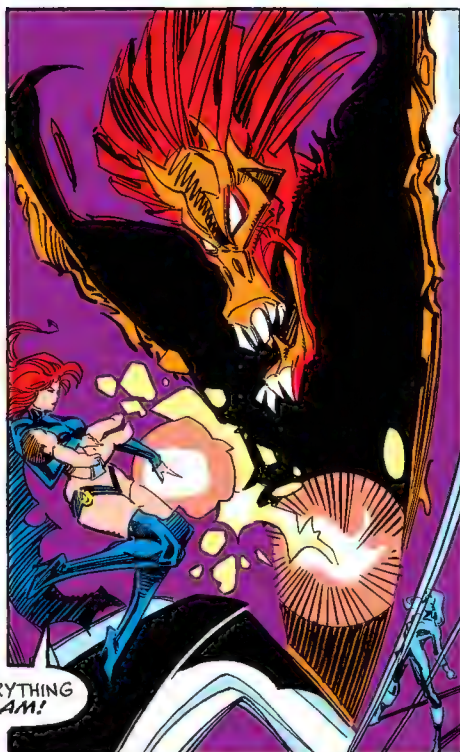
YOU ONLY HAD TO LOOK AT ME... AND I KNEW!

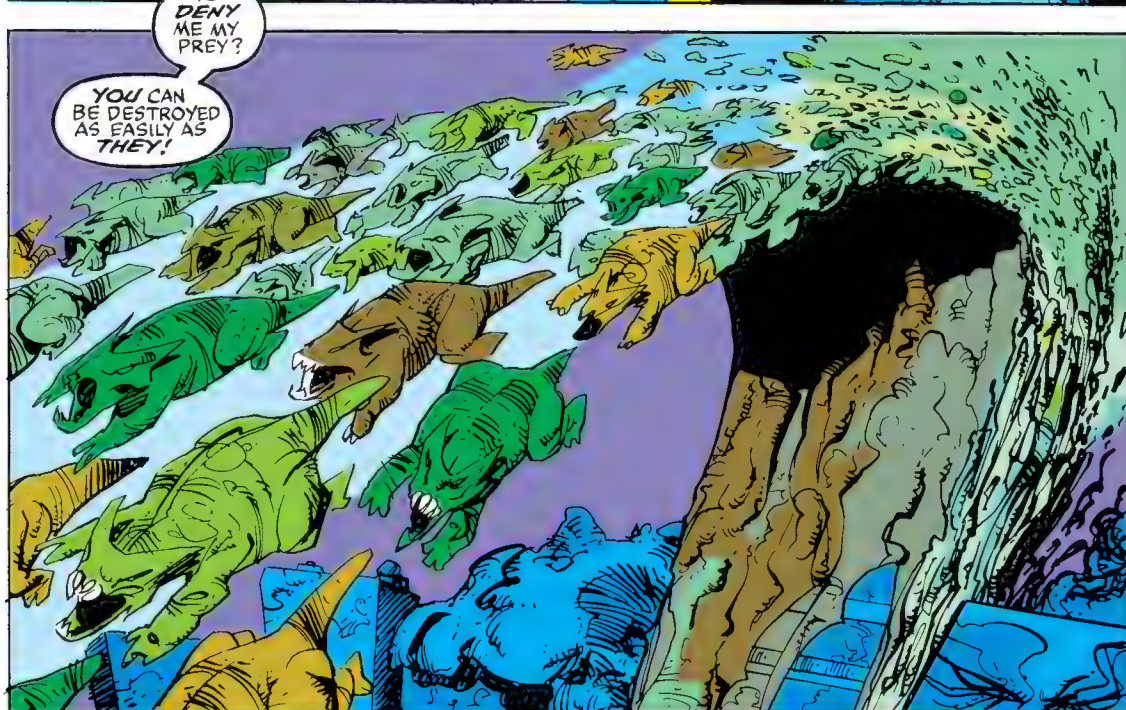
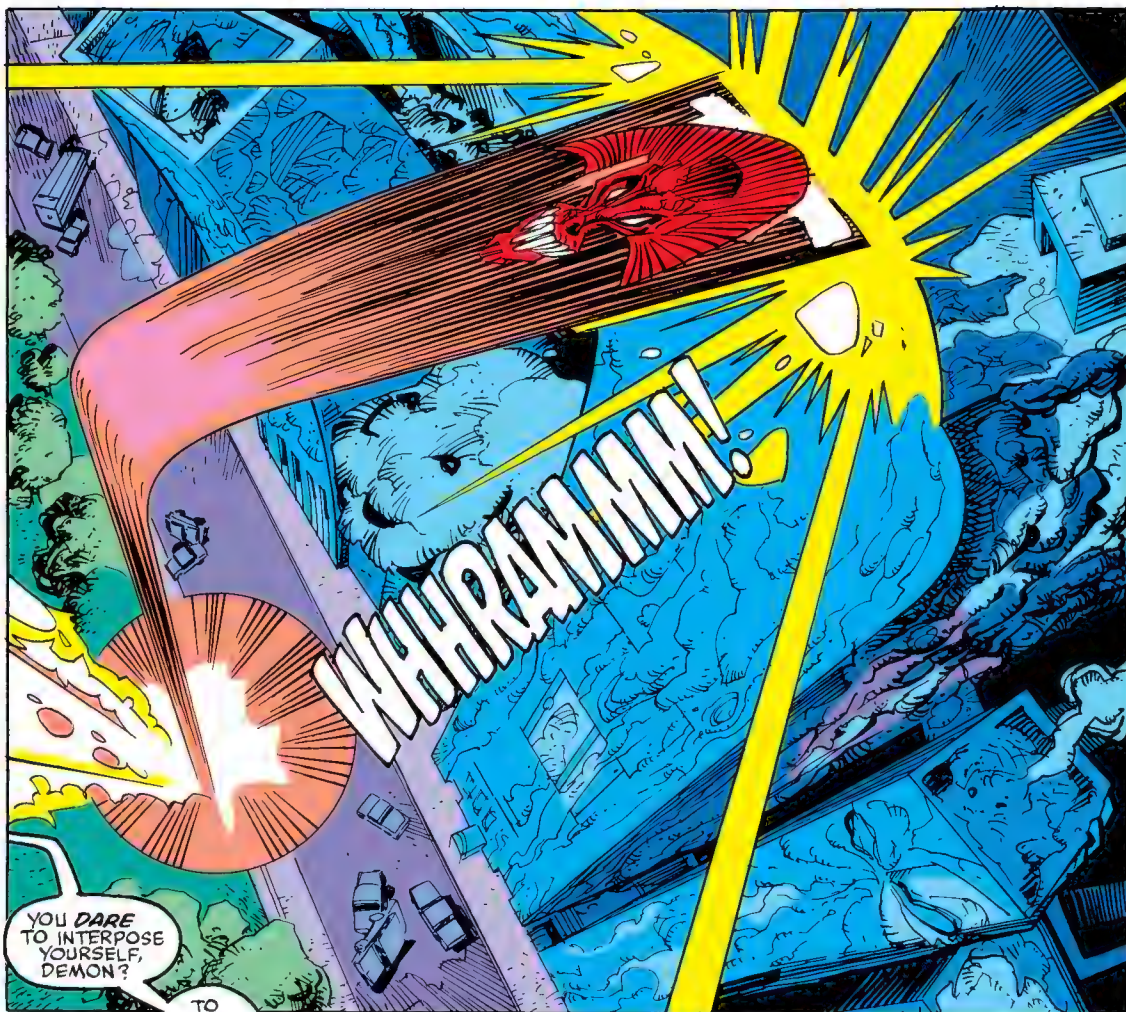
YOUR EYES AND THE KNOWLEDGE IN THEM BLASTED THROUGH MY HEART.

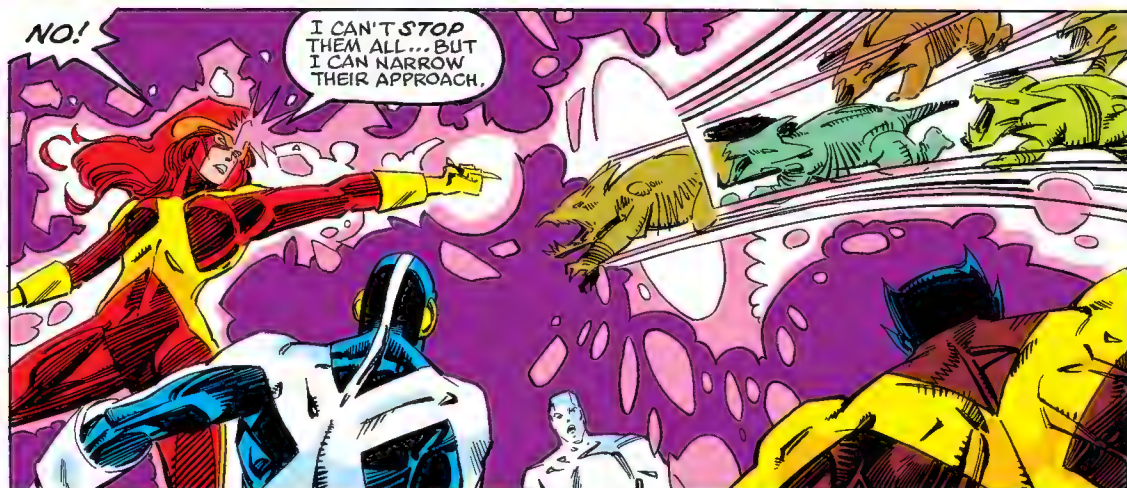
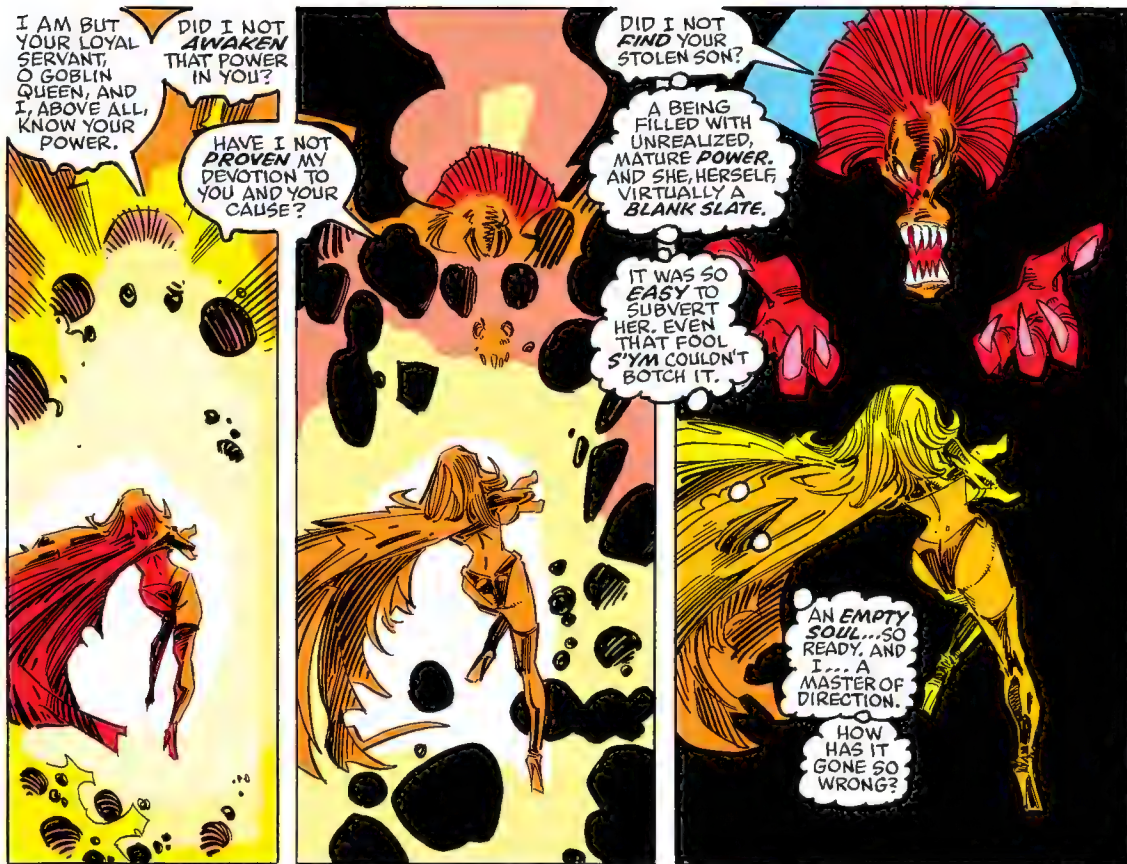
IT WASN'T ME YOU WANTED.

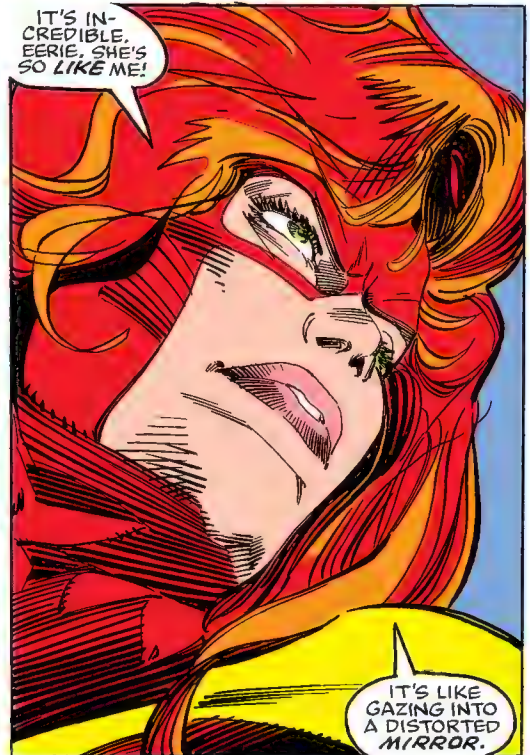
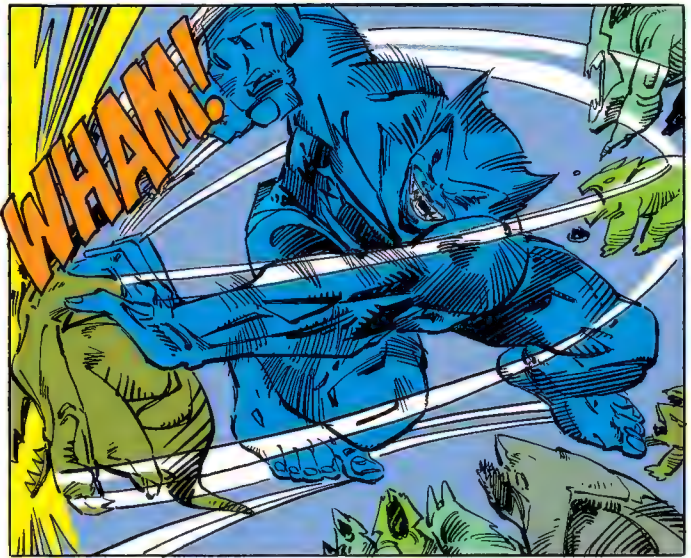
IT WAS NEVER ME.













A MIRROR,
YES, AND
DISTORTED.



YOU HAVE
DISTORTED
ME, DEMON.

ETCHED THE
DARK CHARAC-
TERS ON MY
SOUL.

PULLED
ALL THE
STRINGS.

CREATED
THE TIES
THAT BIND
ME TO THE
DARKNESS.



BUT I AM
NO LONGER
A DEMON
PUPPET.

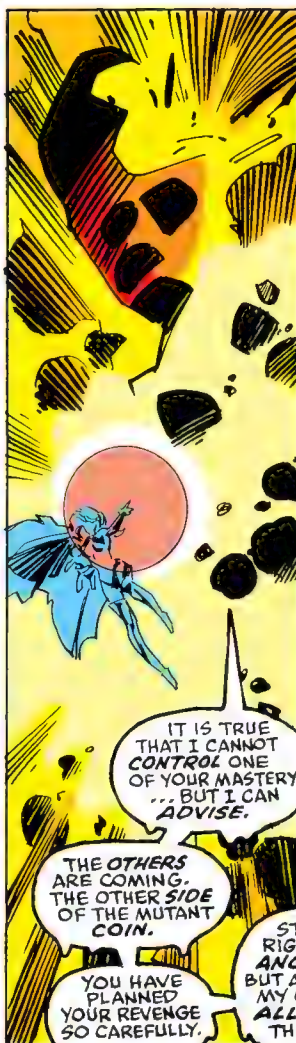
SHRATK!

I DO NOT
CARE *WHAT*
SHE IS, AS LONG
AS SHE DOES
WHAT I'VE SET
HER TO DO.

YOU HAVE
CREATED MORE
THAN YOU
BARGAINED
FOR.

RAISE THE
EMPIRE STATE
BUILDING SO
HIGH THAT IT
CHALLENGES
HEAVEN ITSELF!

AND THROUGH
THE SACRIFICE OF
HER SON, *RELEASE*
THAT UNTAPPED
POWER WITHIN
HIM TO BLAST A
HOLE TO LIMBO...
AND BEYOND.



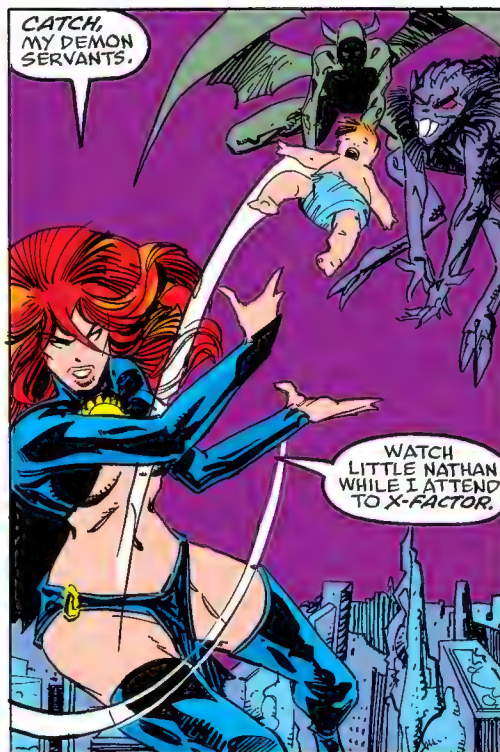
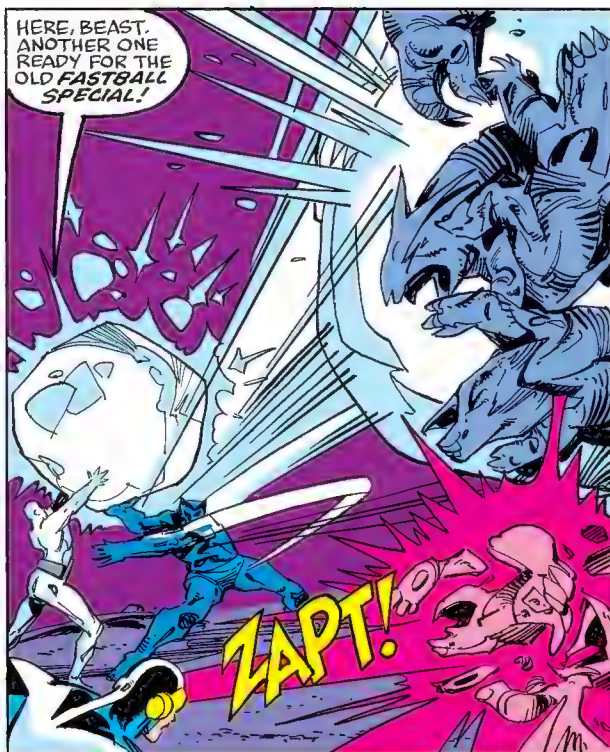
...WILL YOU NOT
FORGO *IMMEDI-
ATE* GRATIFICA-
TION...TO HEIGHT-
EN THE PLEAS-
URE OF THAT
FINAL CONFRON-
TATION?

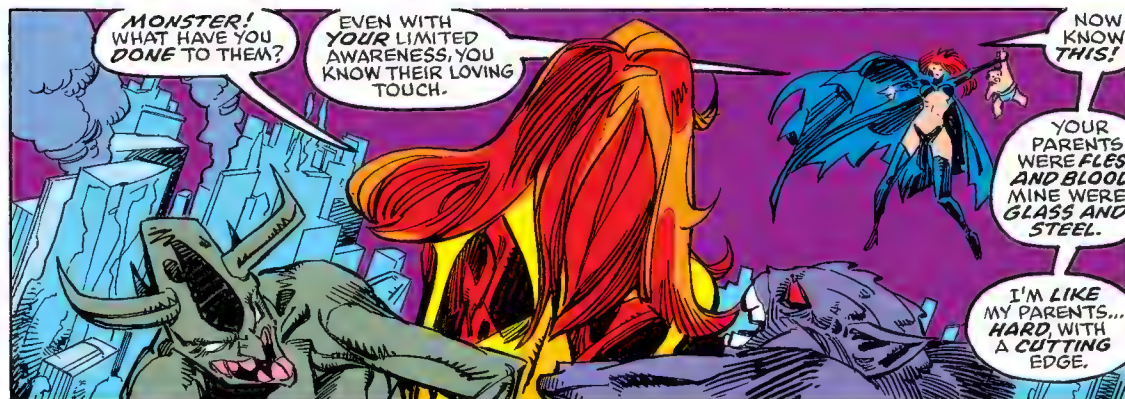
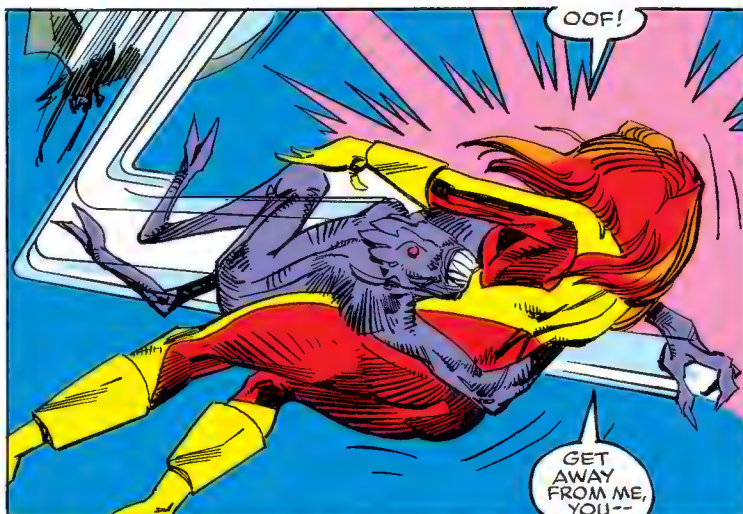
IT IS TRUE
THAT I CANNOT
CONTROL ONE
OF YOUR MASTERY
... BUT I CAN
ADVISE.

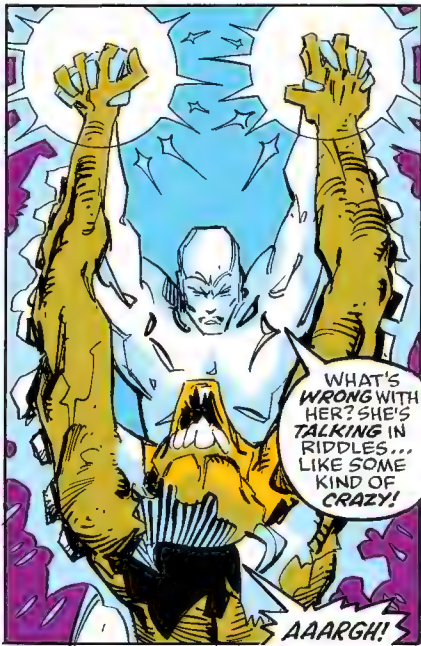
THE OTHERS
ARE COMING.
THE OTHER SIDE
OF THE MUTANT
COIN.

YOU HAVE
PLANNED
YOUR REVENGE
SO CAREFULLY.

STAY YOUR
RIGHTEOUS
ANGER FOR
BUT A MOMENT,
MY GREAT
ALLY, AND
THINK...







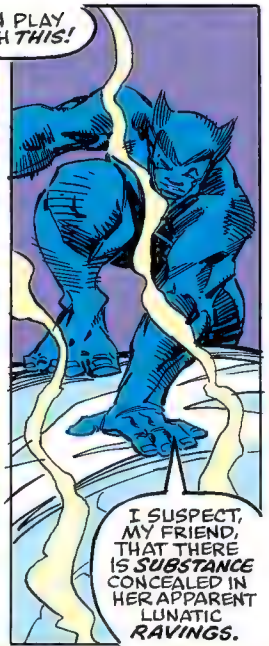
WHAT'S
WRONG WITH
HER? SHE'S
TALKING IN
RIDDLES...
LIKE SOME
KIND OF
CRAZY!

AAARGH!

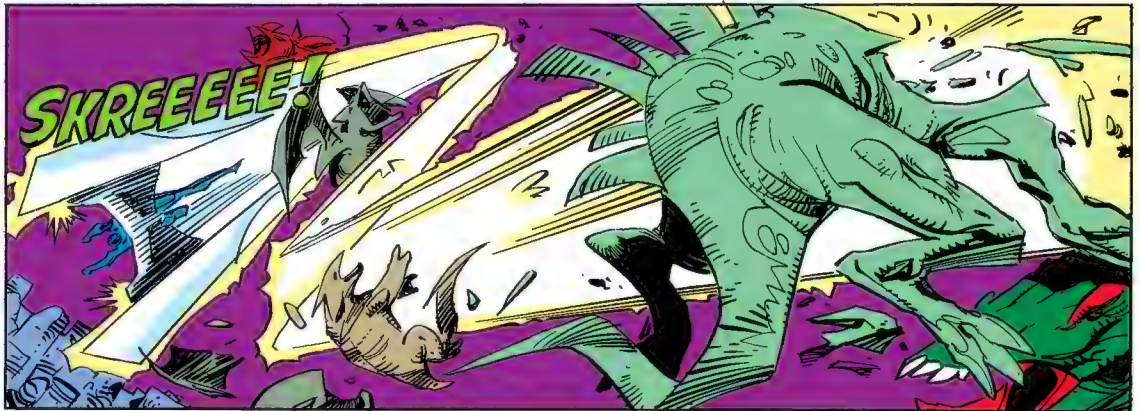


WANT
TO PLAY
HARD
BALL,
DEMONS?

THEN PLAY
WITH THIS!

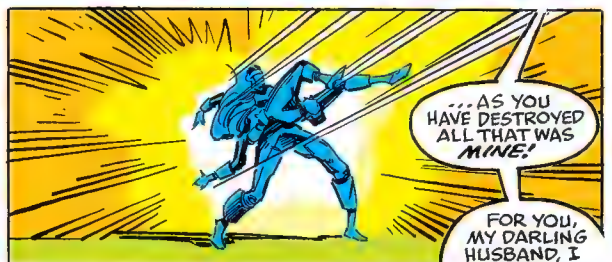


I SUSPECT,
MY FRIEND,
THAT THERE
IS SUBSTANCE
CONCEALED IN
HER APPARENT
LUNATIC
RAVINGS.

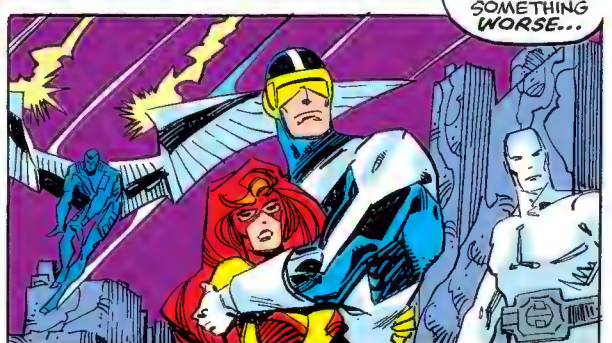


DROP HER,
MY SERVANTS,
AND RETURN
TO YOUR
MISTRESS!

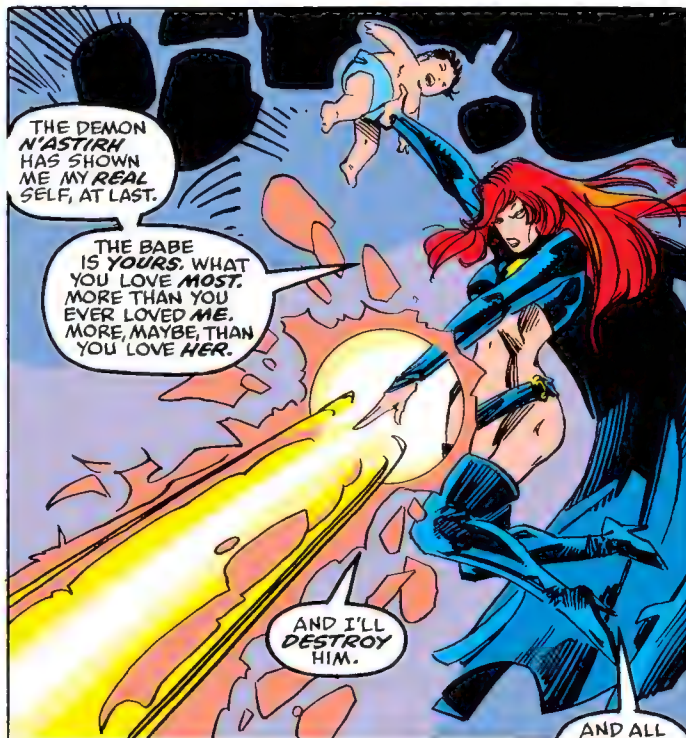
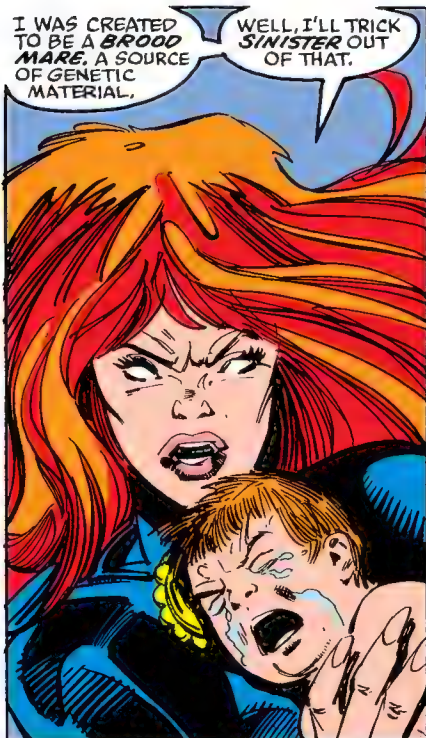
I HATE
YOU, JEAN GREY,
AND I WILL
SYSTEMATICALLY
DESTROY ANY-
THING THAT WAS
YOURS...



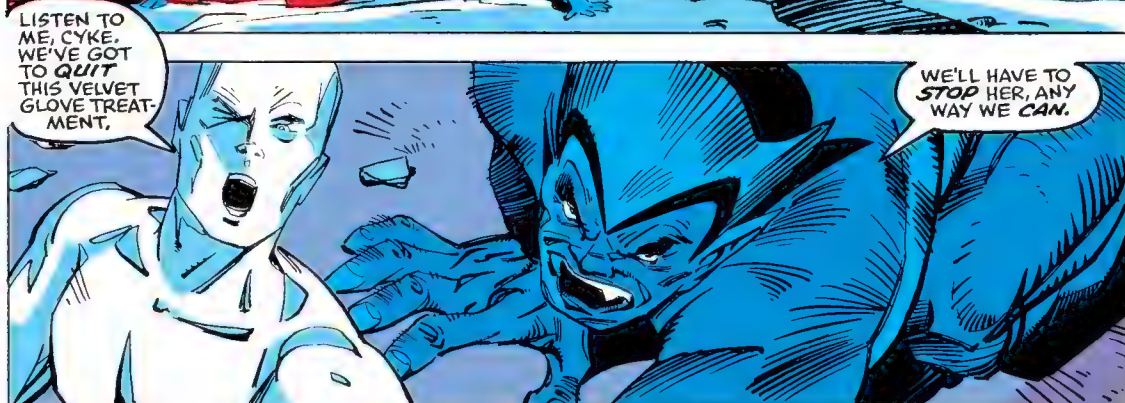
...AS YOU
HAVE DESTROYED
ALL THAT WAS
MINE!

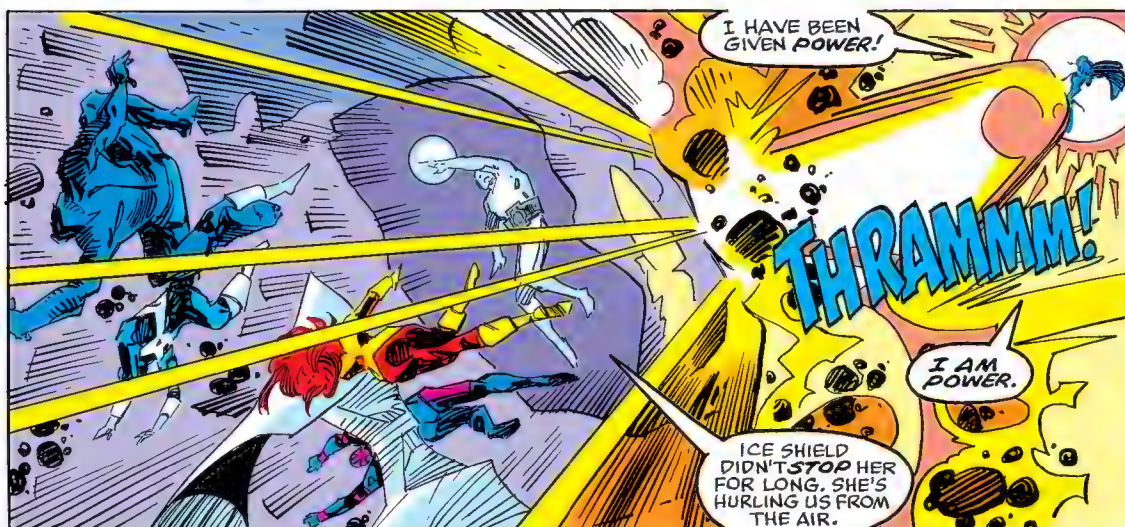
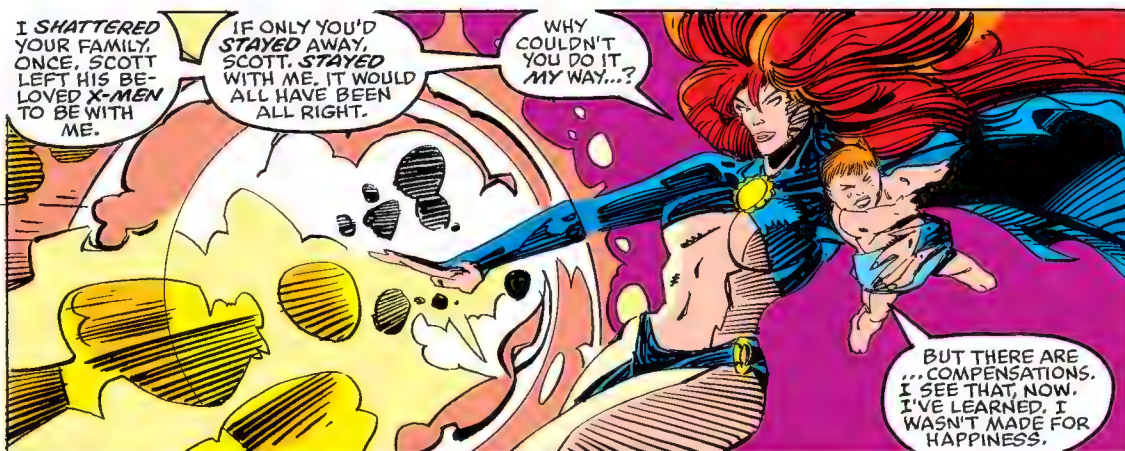


FOR YOU,
MY DARLING
HUSBAND, I
HAVE PLANNED
SOMETHING
WORSE...

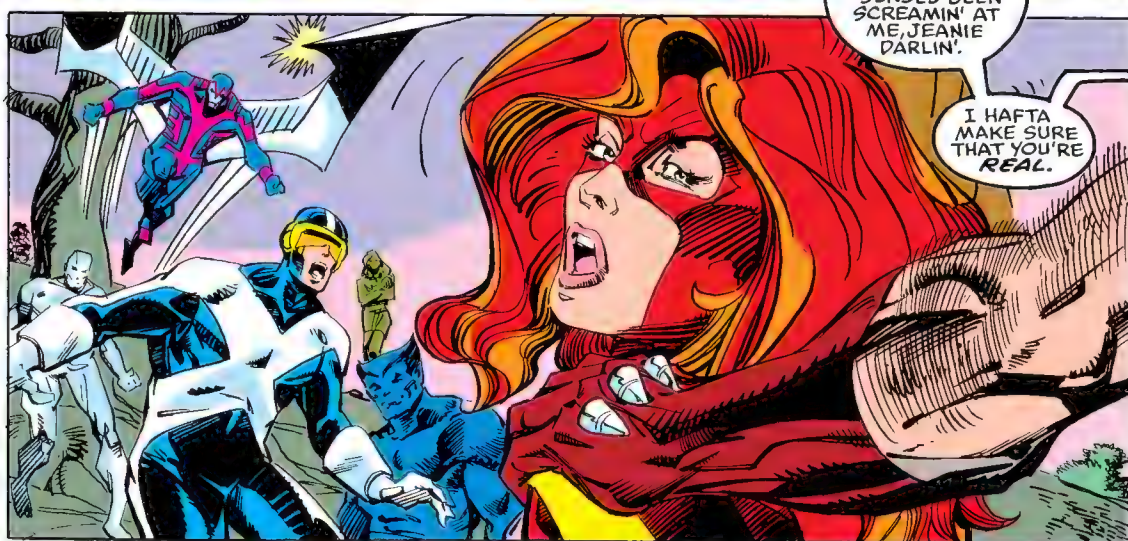
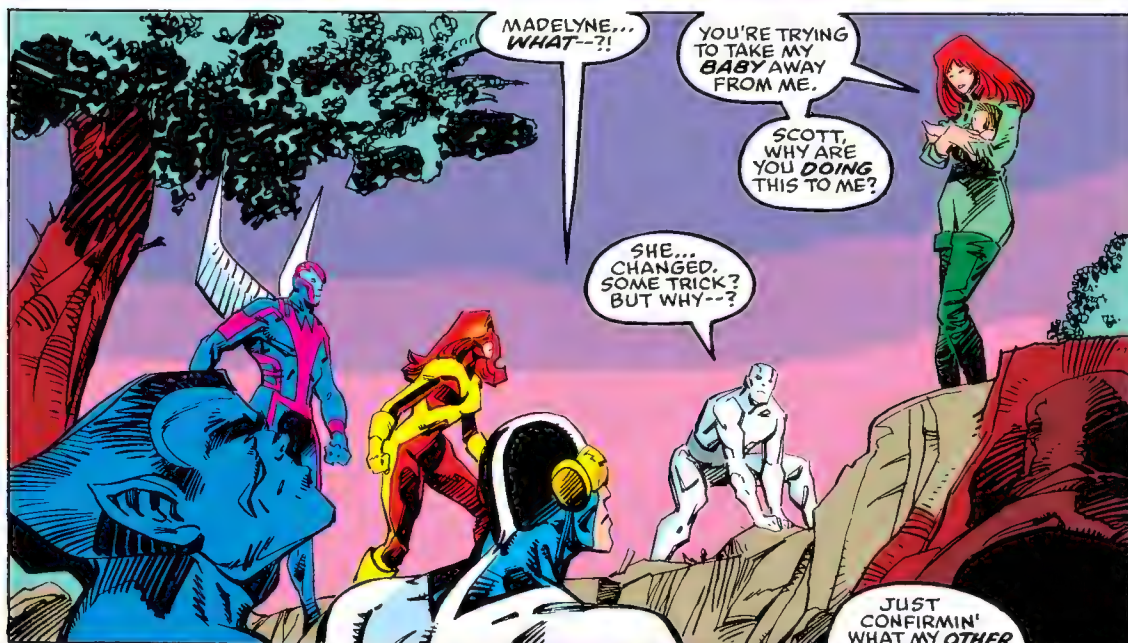


AND ALL OF YOUR HOPES WITH HIM.





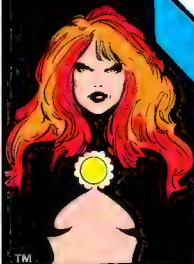




NEXT...in **X-MEN** #242...

THE MEETING YOU'VE ALL BEEN WAITING FOR!
'NUFF SAID!

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INFERNO

X-MEN

**GIANT-SIZED
SPECTACULAR!**



**FINALLY!
BECAUSE YOU
DEMANDED
IT..**

THE ORIGINALS ARE BACK.. X-FACTOR!



INFERNO

PART THE THIRD

THIS IS A MOMENT...

... THAT SPEAKS
MOST ELOQUENTLY
FOR ITSELF.



STAN LEE
PRESENTS

BURN!

IT IS A NIGHT WHEN THE
UNIVERSES SHAKE...

...AND THE FABRIC OF REALITY ITSELF--
THE SUM AND SUBSTANCE OF ALL
THAT EVER WAS AND EVER SHALL BE--
TEARS ASUNDER...

...TO BE WOVEN ANEW BY
THE FORCES BATTLING HERE
INTO SOMETHING BETTER
OR WORSE...

...OR PERHAPS INTO NOTHING AT ALL.

SAVE FINAL OBLIVION.

FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH,
THE SETTING IS
MANHATTAN ISLAND, IN
THE SOUTHERNMOST
REACHES OF CENTRAL PARK...

AND THE PLAYERS--
THE UNCANNY X-MEN,
FACING OFF AGAINST
X-FACTOR (WHO, NOT SO
TERRIBLY LONG AGO, WERE
THE FOUNDING FIVE
MEMBERS OF X-MEN).

BUT
THIS IS A
MAGIC TIME--
WHEN LEGENDS
ARE MADE, AS
HEARTS ARE FOR-
EVER BROKEN--
AND AN ACCURSED
PLACE--

STORM

DAZZLER

WOLVERINE

MARVEL GIRL

HAVOK

PSYLOCKE

MADELYNE
PRYOR

CYCLOPS

BEAST

ROGUE

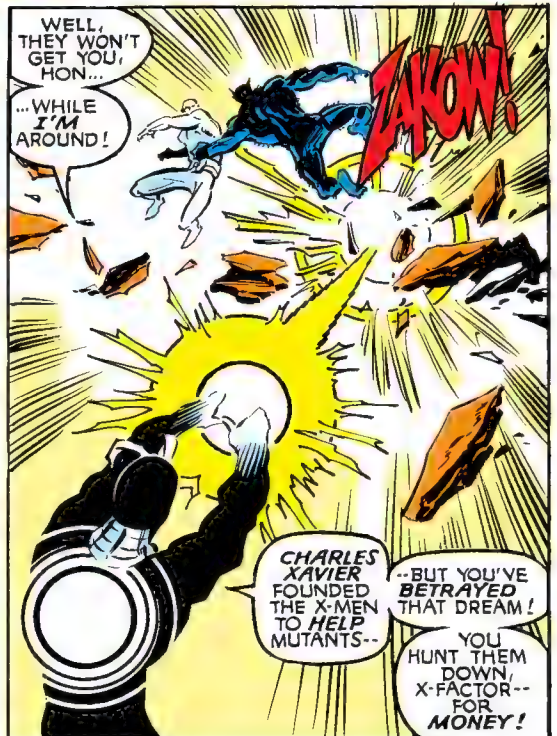
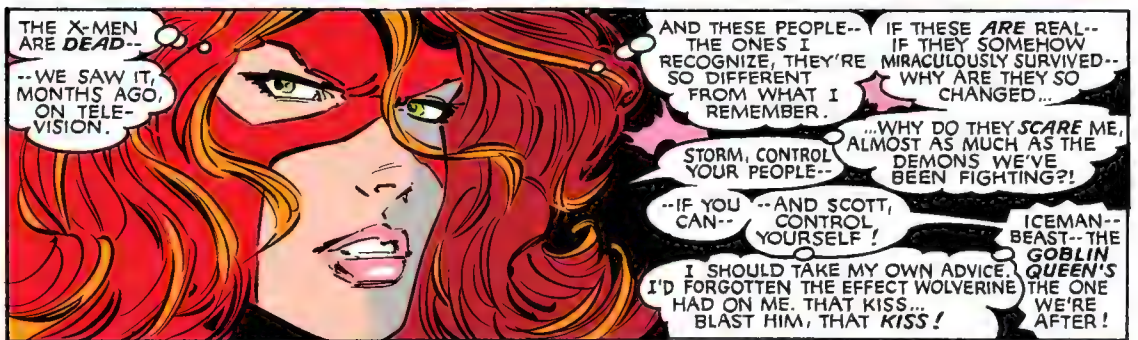
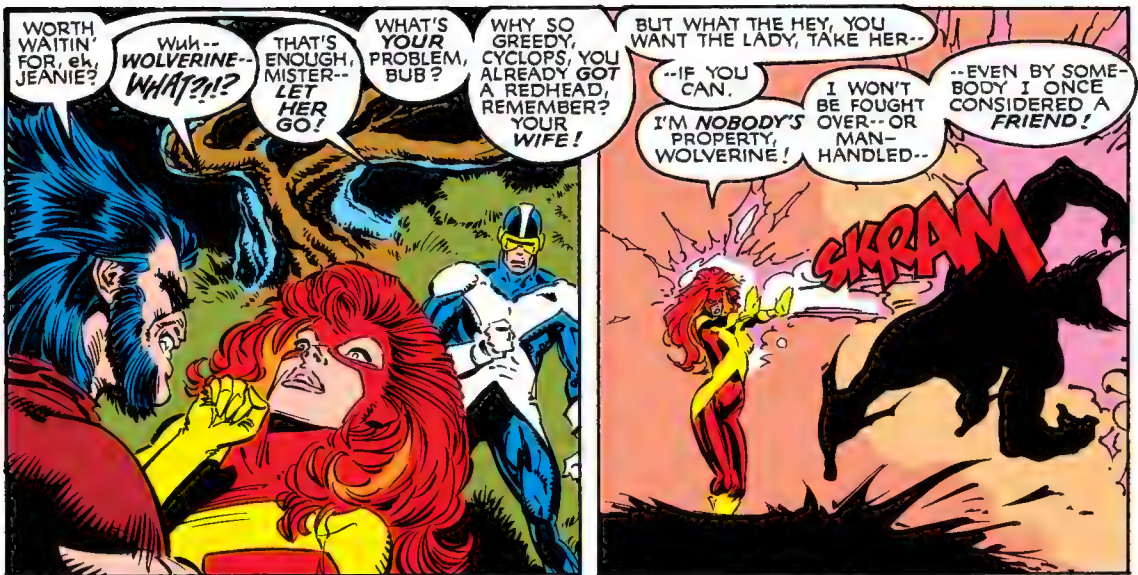
LONGSHOT

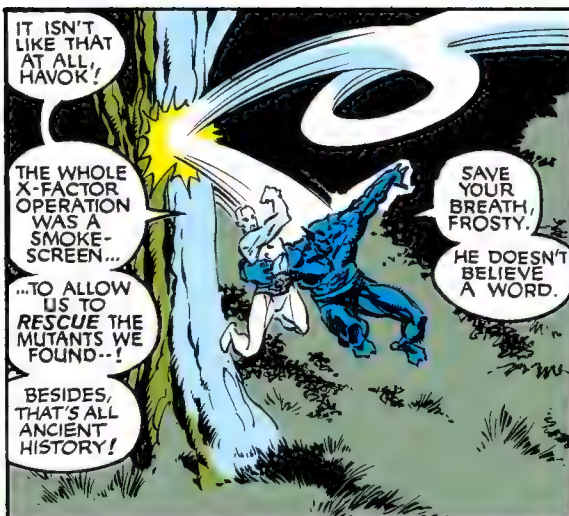
ICEMAN

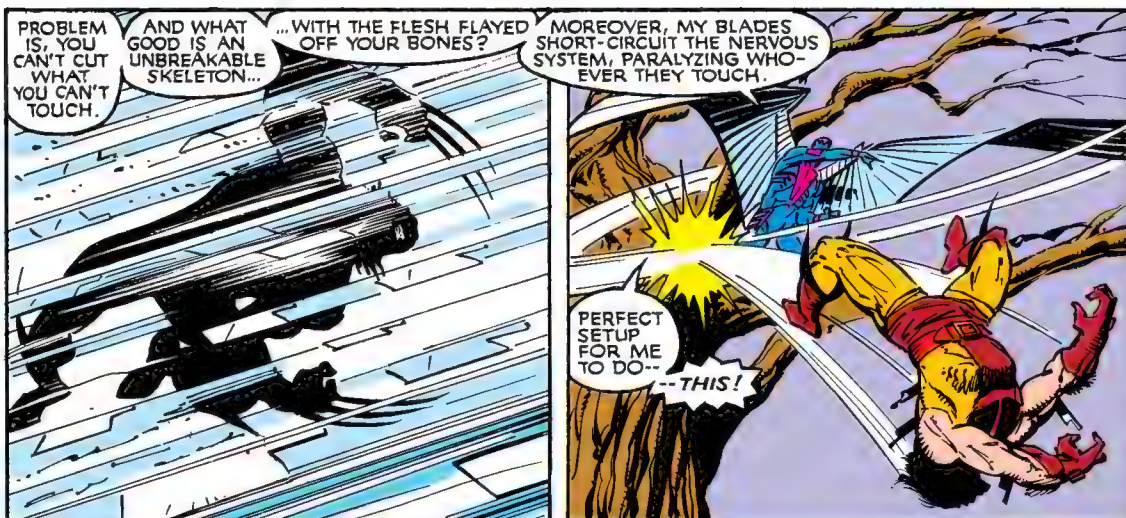
...WHERE
NOTHING
IS AS IT
SHOULD
BE...

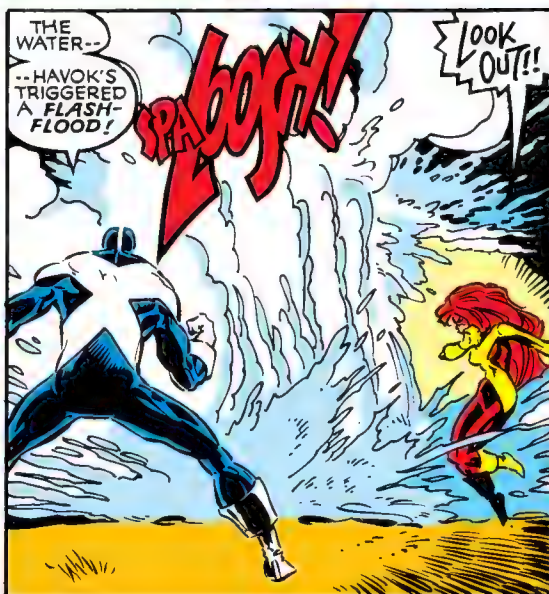
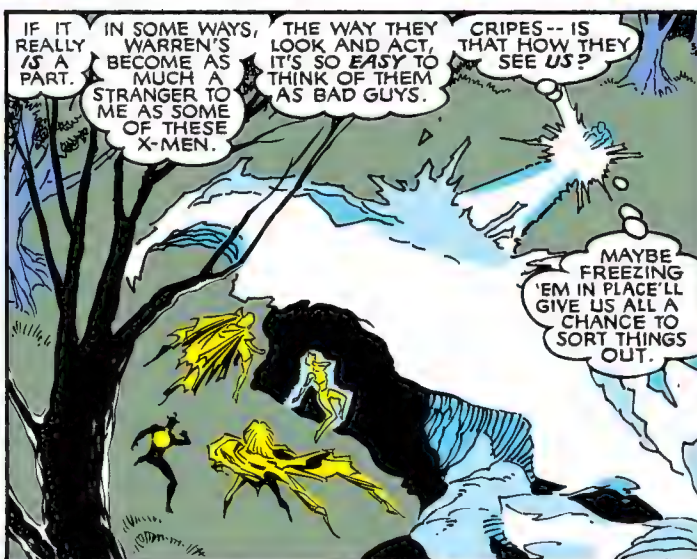
...AND EVEN
LESS WHAT
IT SEEMS.

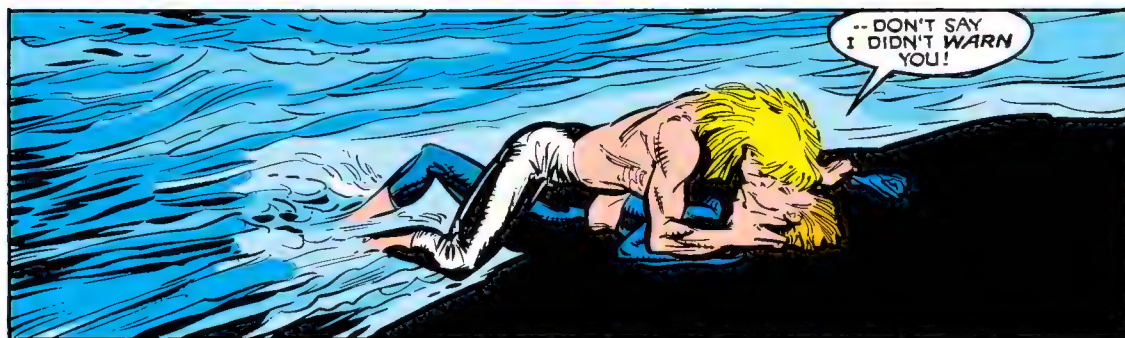
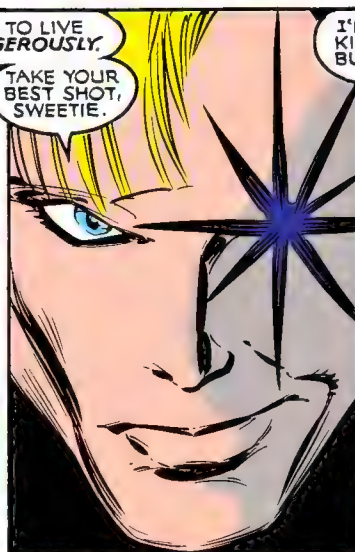
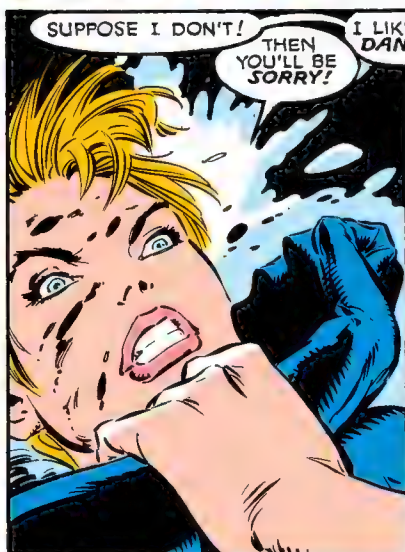
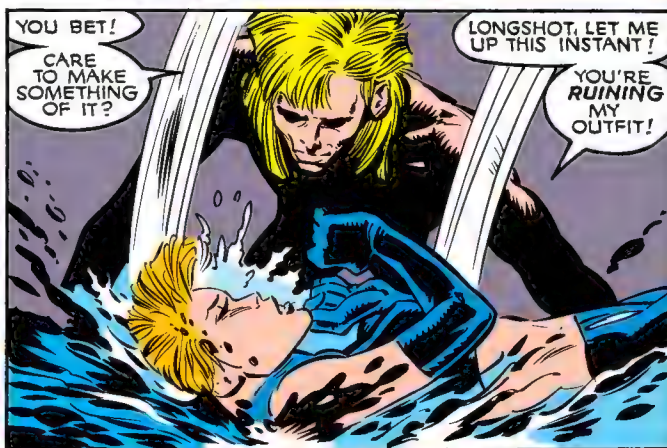
CHRIS CLAREMONT, WRITER
MARC SILVESTRI, PENCILER
DAN GREEN, INKER
GLYNIS OLIVER, COLORIST
TOM ORZECOWSKI, LETTERER
BOB HARRAS, EDITOR
TOM DeFALCO, EDITOR IN CHIEF

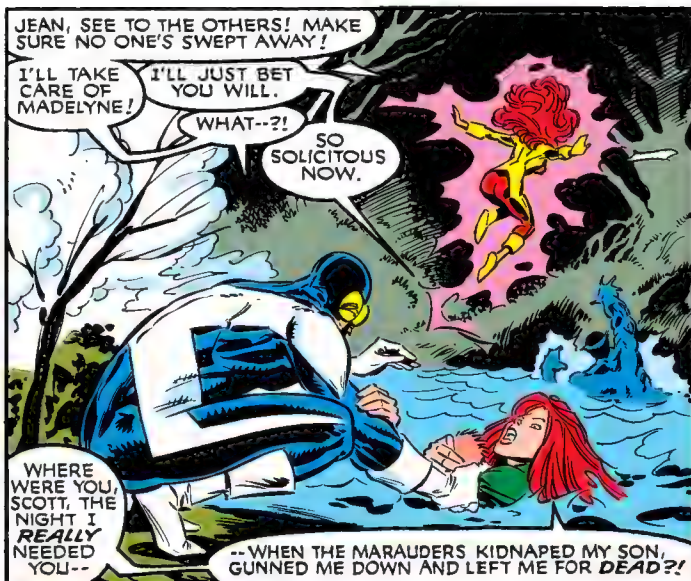












JEAN, SEE TO THE OTHERS! MAKE SURE NO ONE'S SWEEPED AWAY!

I'LL TAKE CARE OF MADELYNE!

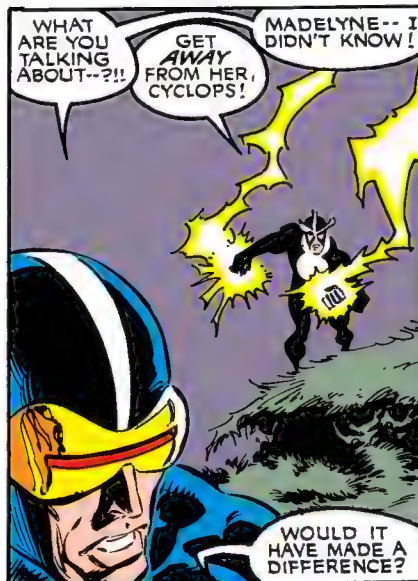
I'LL JUST BET YOU WILL.

WHAT--?!

SO SOLICITOUS NOW.

WHERE WERE YOU, SCOTT, THE NIGHT I REALLY NEEDED YOU--

--WHEN THE MARAUDERS KIDNAPED MY SON, GUNNED ME DOWN AND LEFT ME FOR DEAD?!



WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT--?!!

GET AWAY FROM HER, CYCLOPS!

MADELYNE-- I DIDN'T KNOW!

WOULD IT HAVE MADE A DIFFERENCE?



OF COURSE-- HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT?

YOU'RE HURTING ME!

I'M SORRY.

YOU ALWAYS ARE, BUT NOTHING CHANGES, IT ONLY GETS WORSE, BECAUSE YOU DO IT AGAIN.



LEAVE HER BE, YOU DONE SCOTT!

HAVEN'T YOU DONE ENOUGH?!

STAY OUT OF THIS, LITTLE BROTHER...

...IT'S NONE OF YOUR CONCERN.

I'M MAKING IT MY "CONCERN."

YOU FORFEITED EVERY RIGHT YOU HAD WHEN YOU WALKED OUT ON HER.



YOU SWORE AN OATH, SCOTT--

--AND YOU **LIED!**



COULD THAT, PERHAPS, PROVE THE QUINTESSENTIAL DIFFERENCE BETWEEN MAN AND DEMON?

OUR WORD IS OUR BOND!

N'ASTIRH!

BUT-- HE'S CHANGED!

MADELYNE-- LOOK OUT-- BEHIND YOU!



TOUCHED HAVE I BEEN BY THE TECHNARCH TRANSMODE VIRUS--

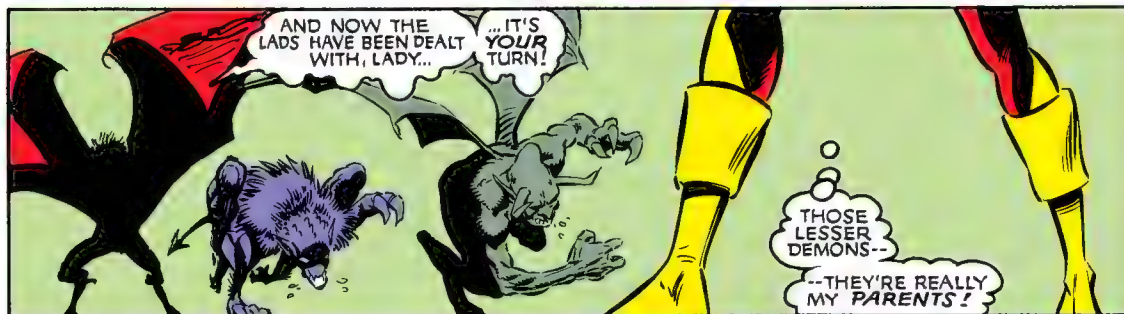
--REMADE AS A BEING OF ORGANIC CIRCUITRY--

--EACH BYTE OF MY SYSTEM SUFFUSED WITH ELDRITCH ENERGY!

IN ALL CREATION, THERE IS NONE LIKE ME--

--THE ULTIMATE, LIVING, SENTIENT, MAGICKAL COMPUTER!

SLAMMO!



AND NOW THE LADS HAVE BEEN DEALT WITH, LADY...

...IT'S YOUR TURN!

THOSE LESSER DEMONS--

--THEY'RE REALLY MY PARENTS!



MOM-- DAD-- DON'T!

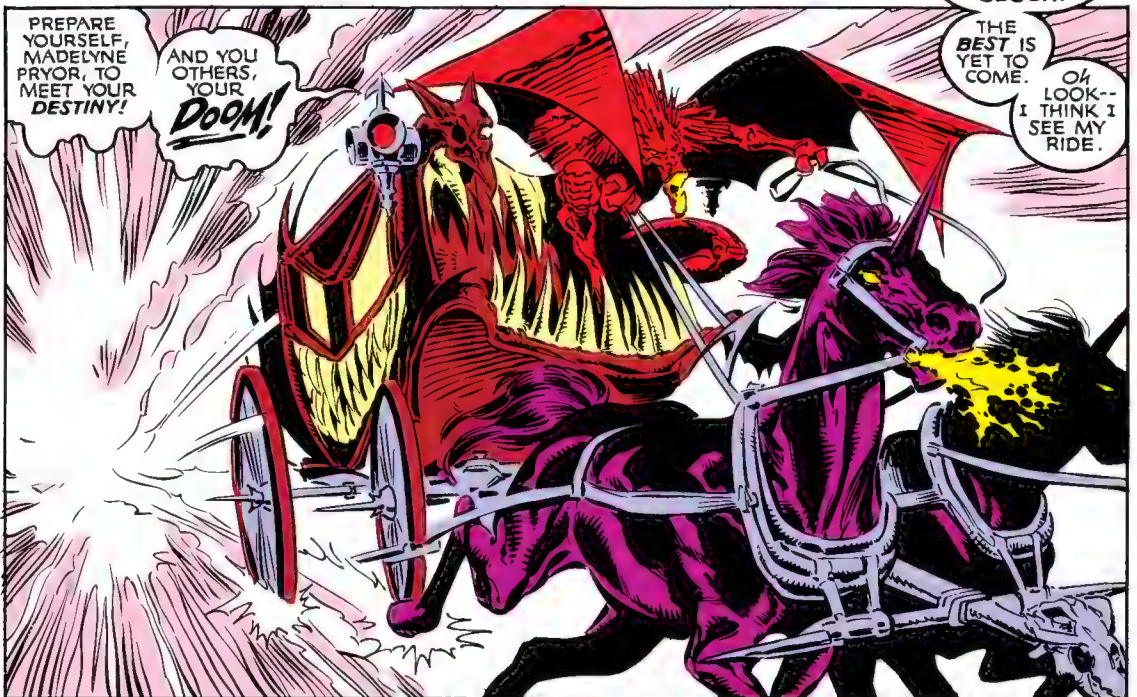
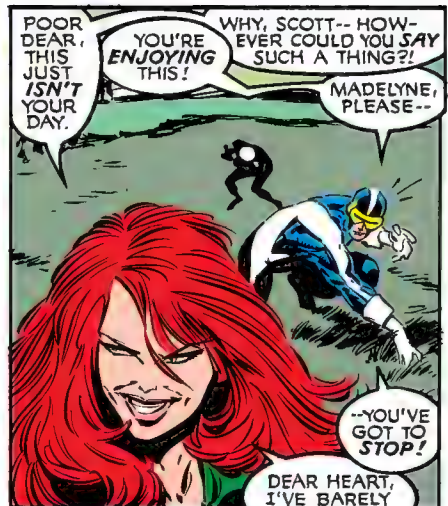
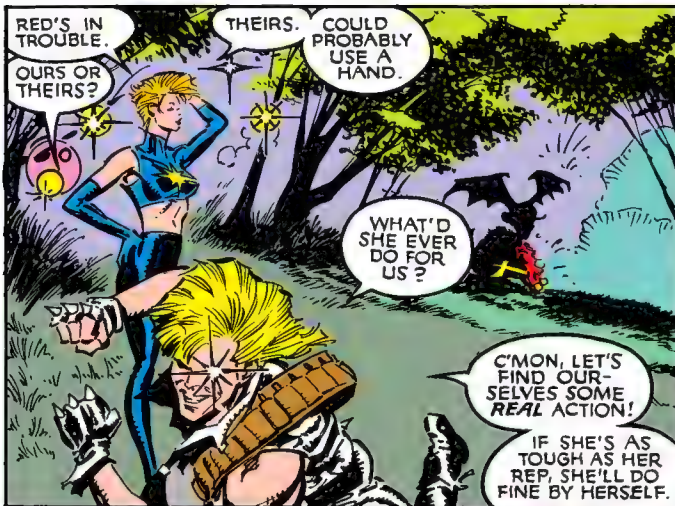


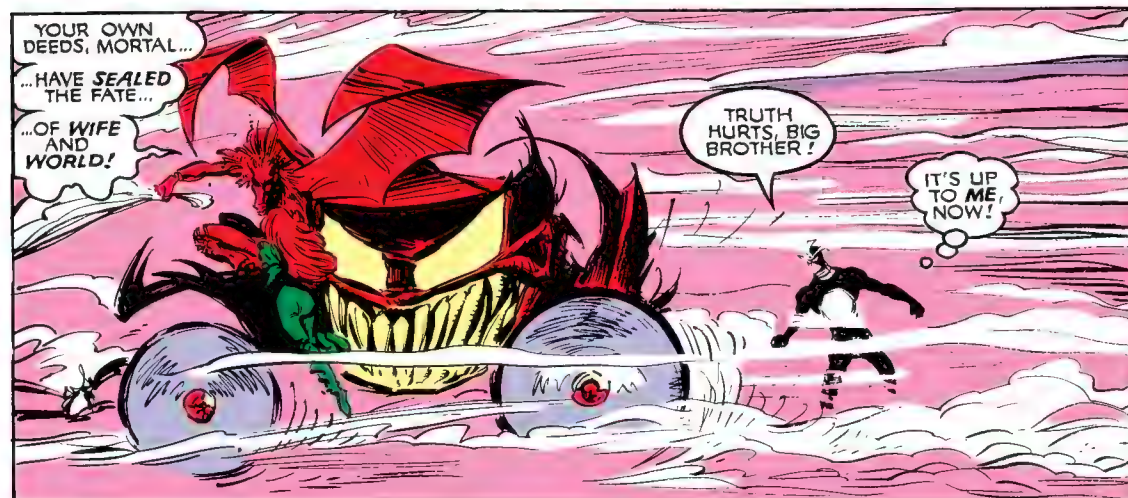
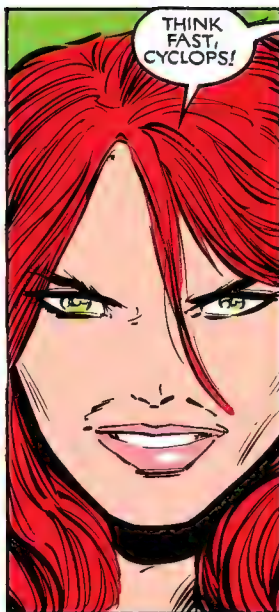
WHAT'S THE PROBLEM, DEAR?

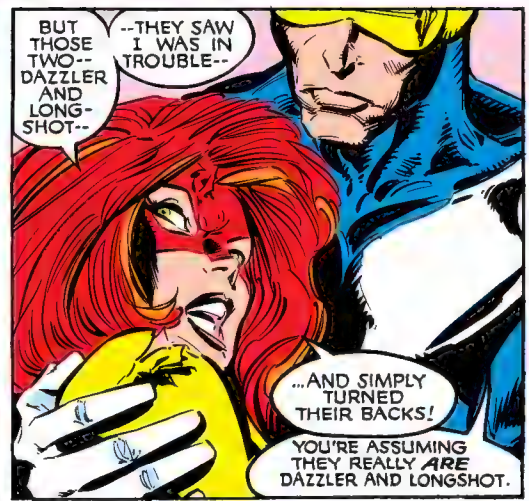
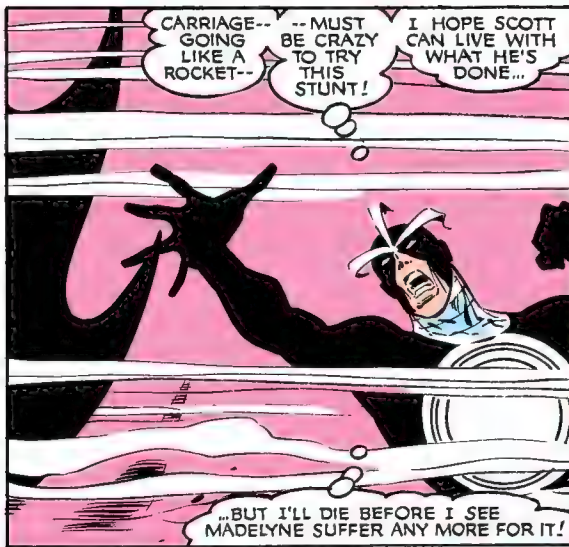
ALL YOU HAVE TO DO TO SAVE YOURSELF...

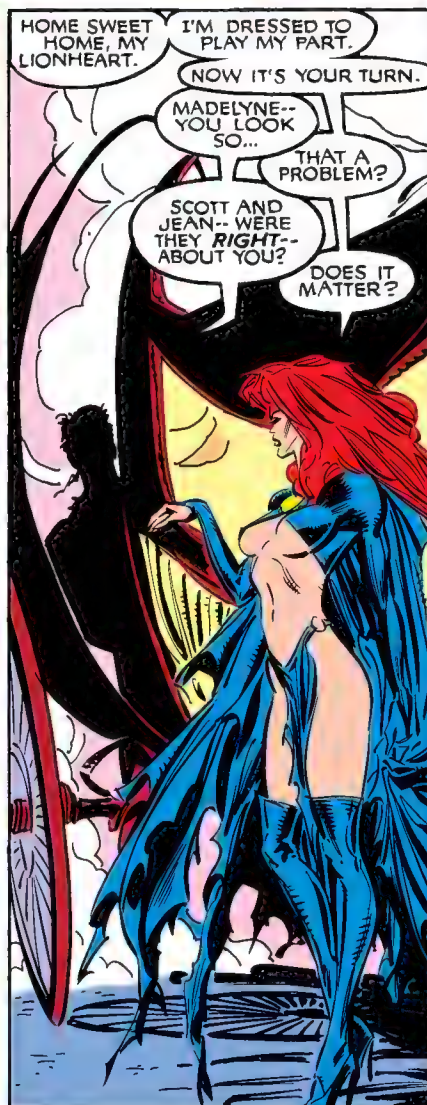
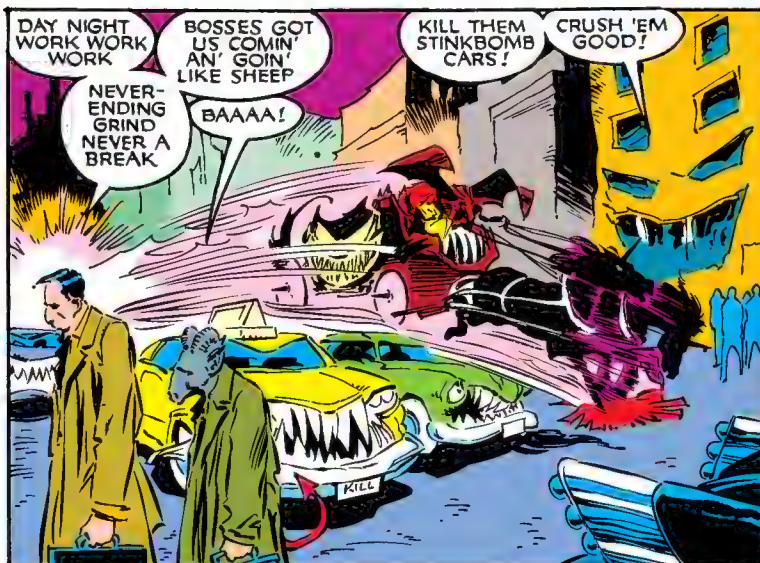
...IS KILL THEM.

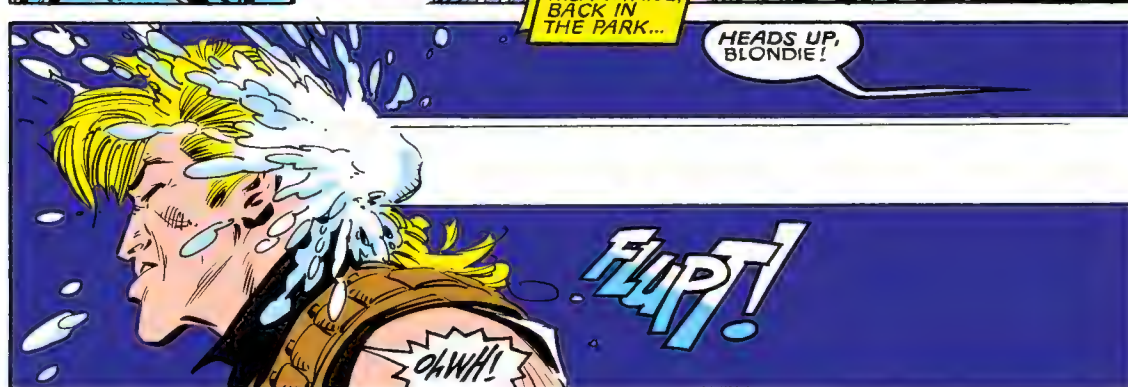
IF YOU DON'T, THOUGH, THEY'LL MOST CERTAINLY SLAUGHTER YOU.

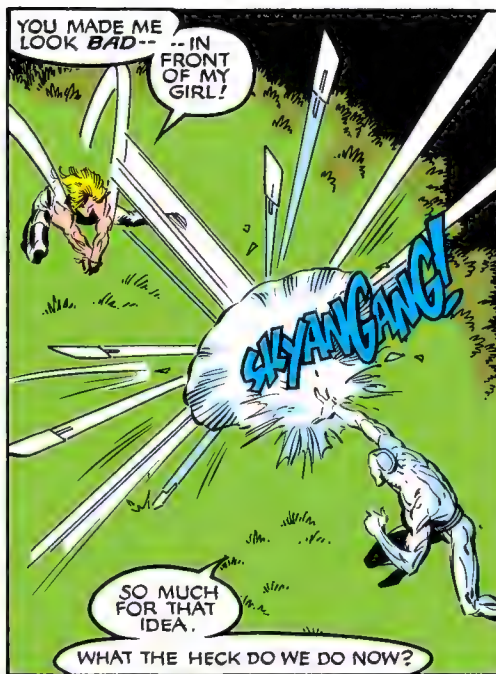
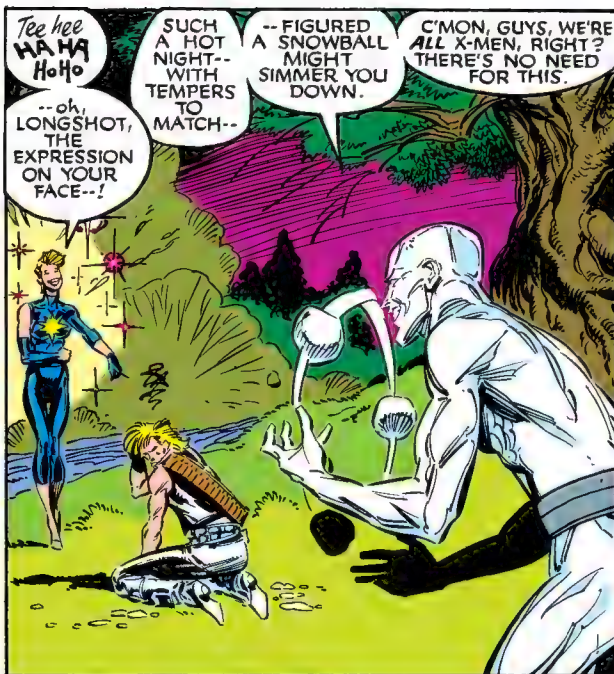


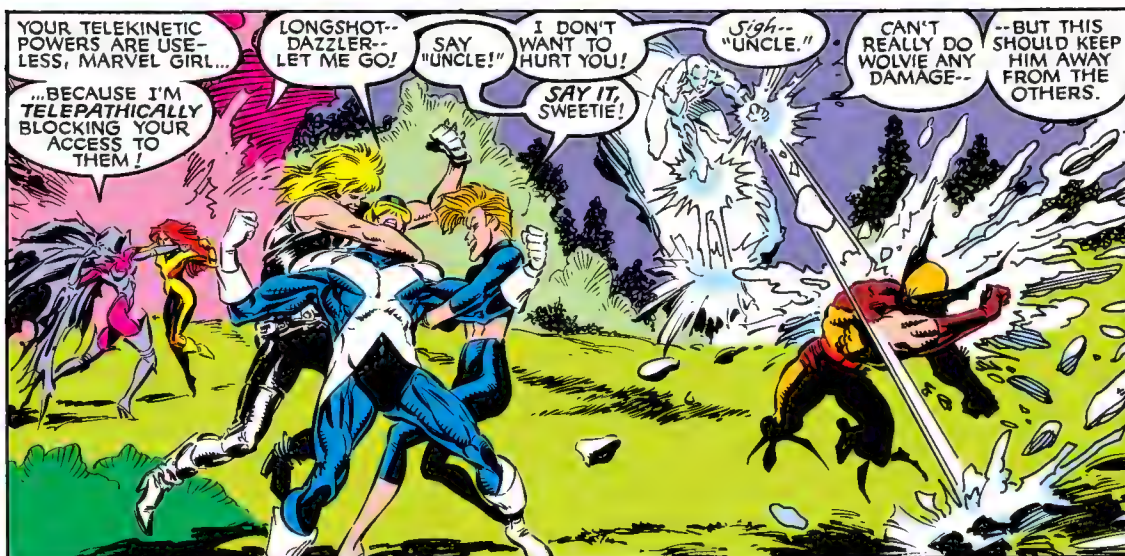
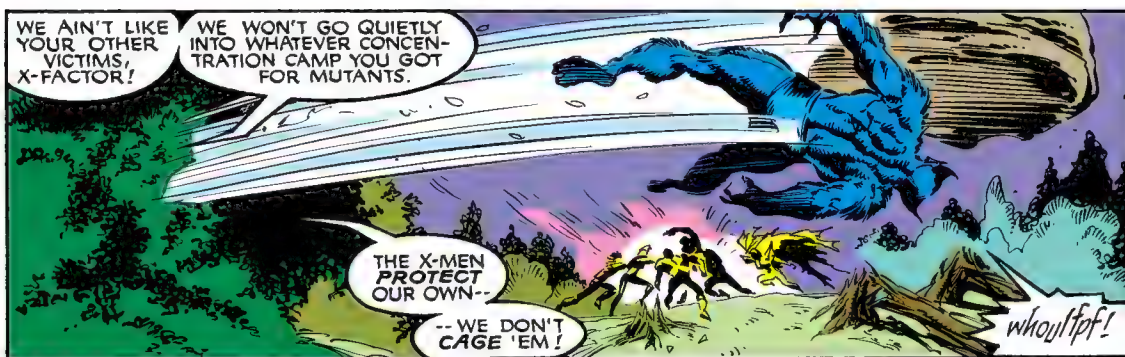


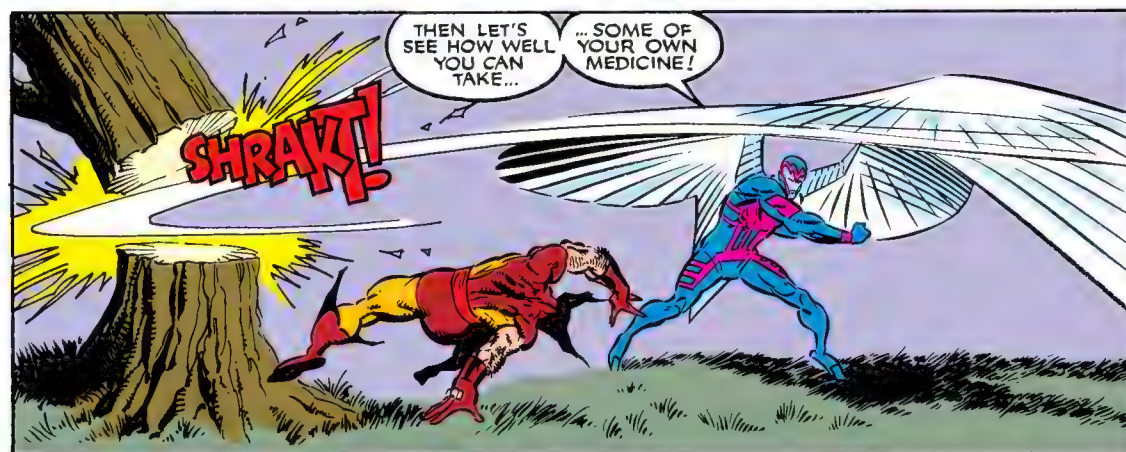
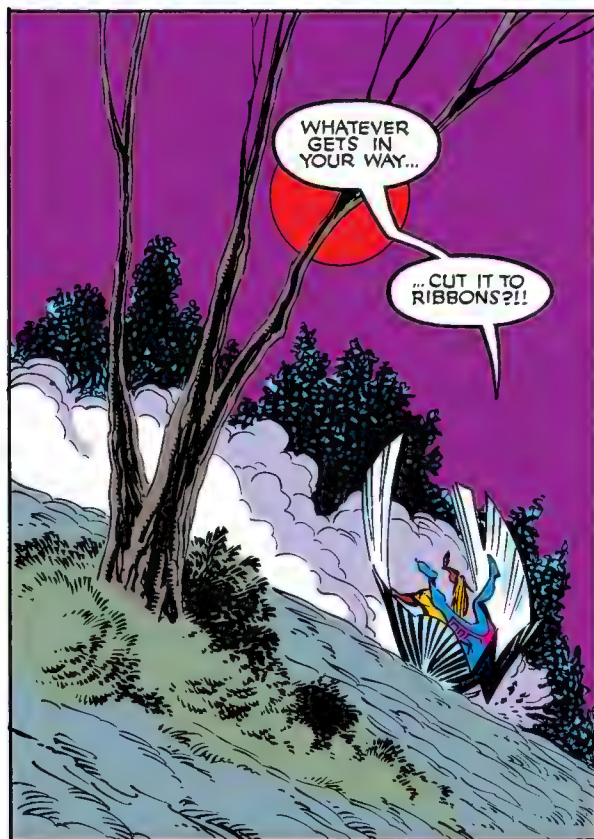
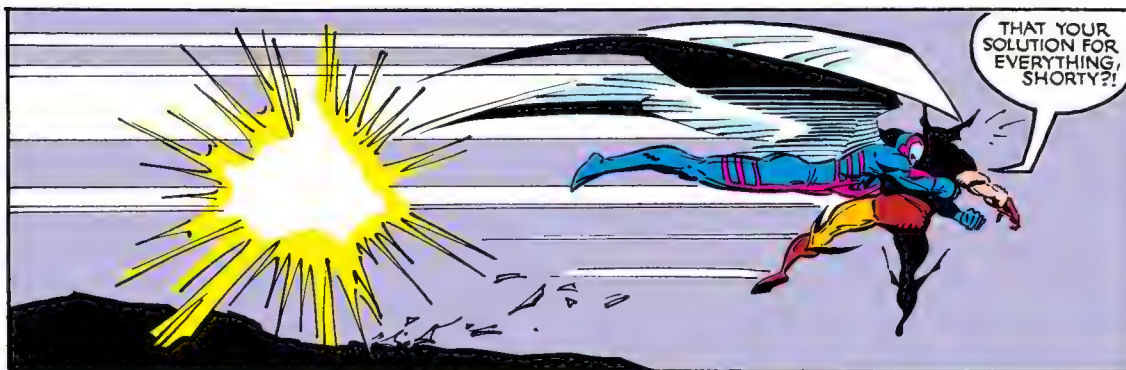


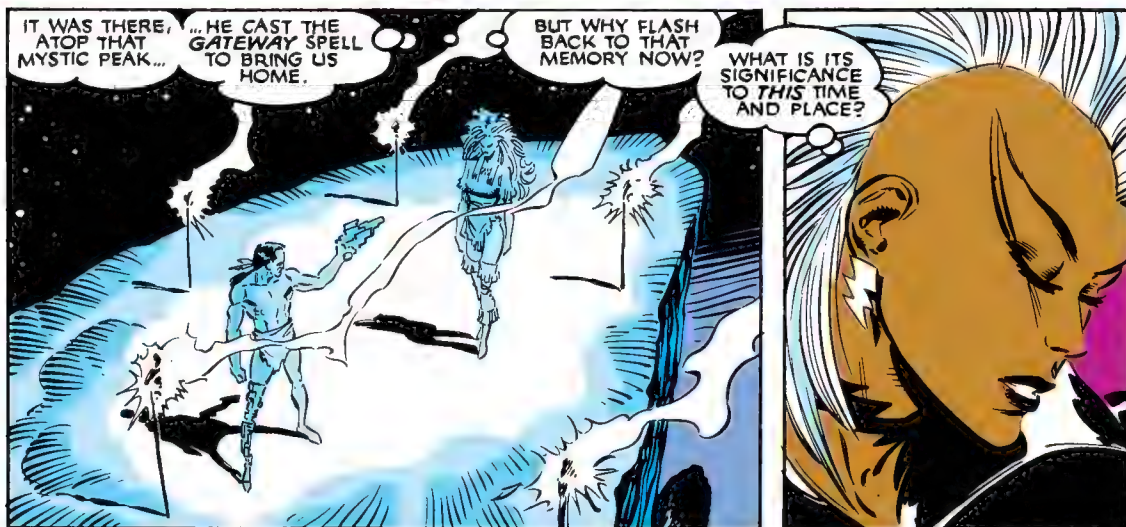
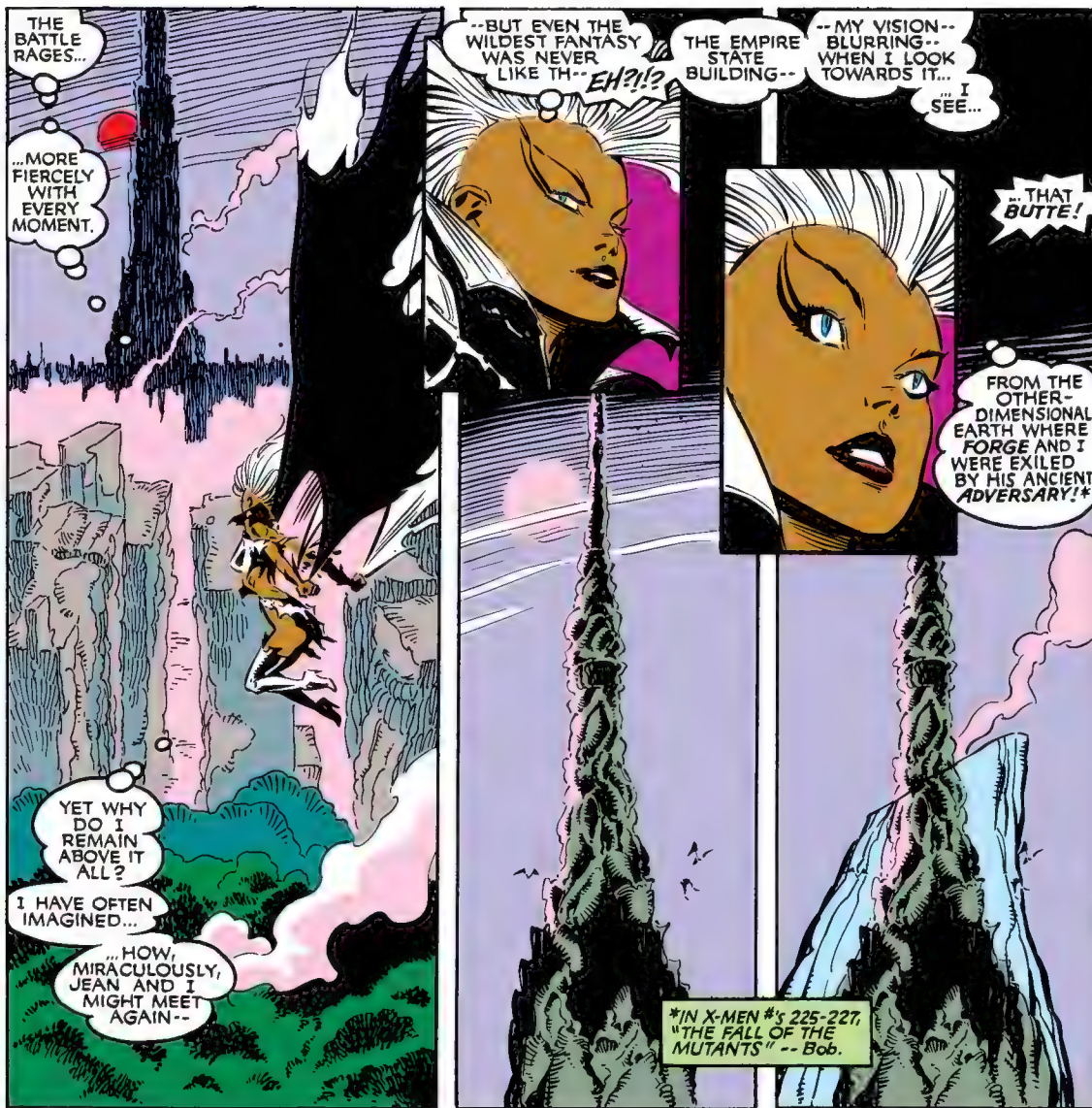


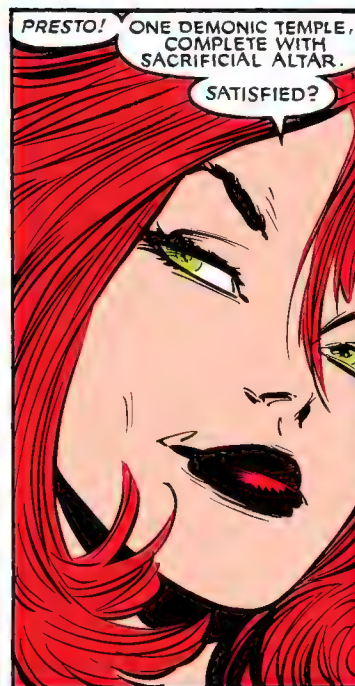
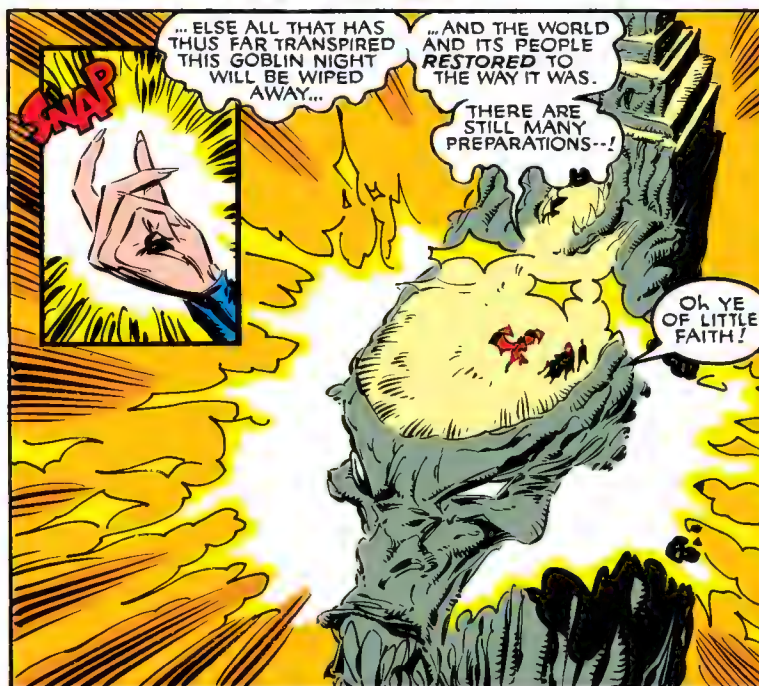
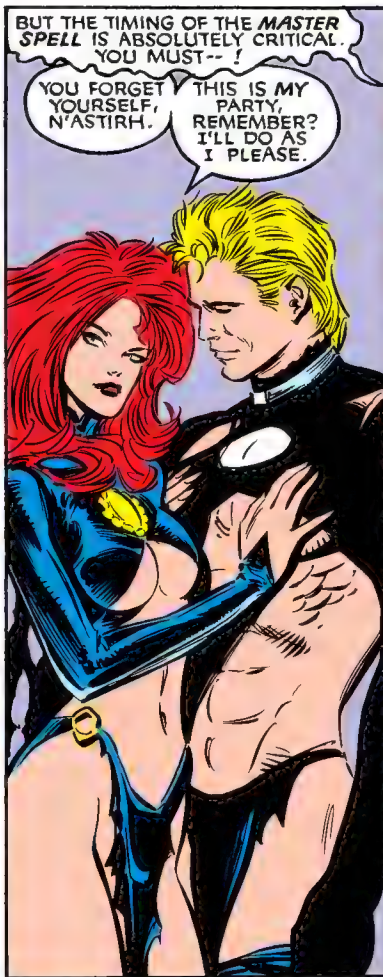
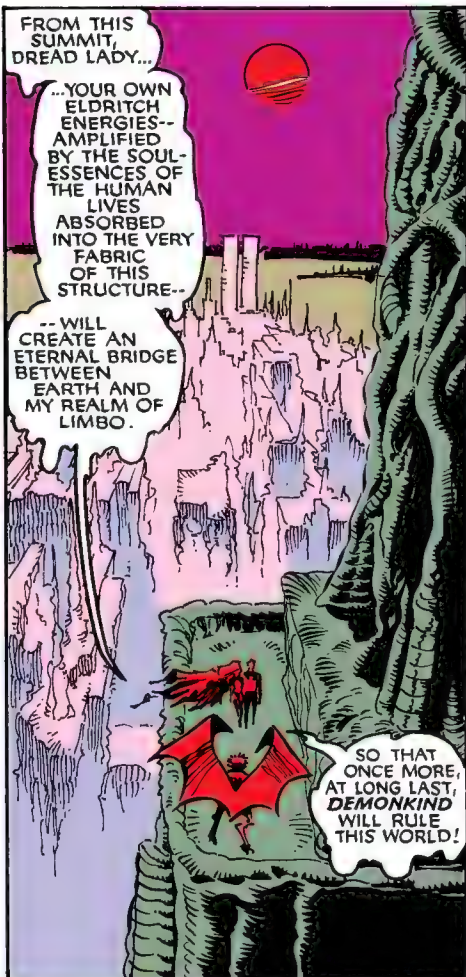


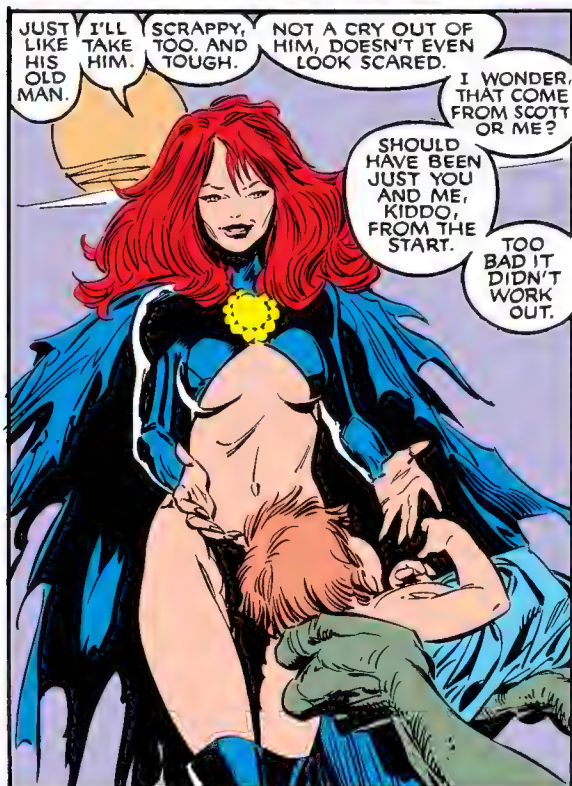
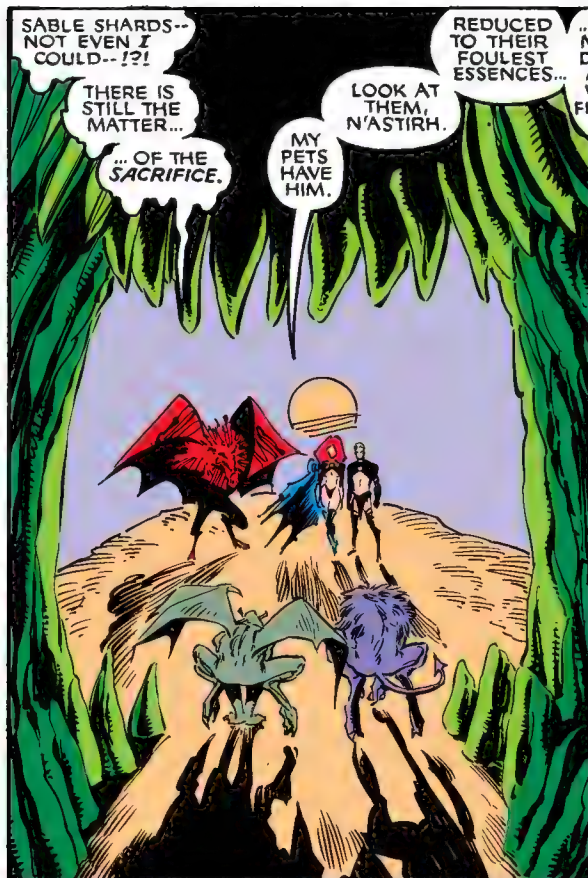




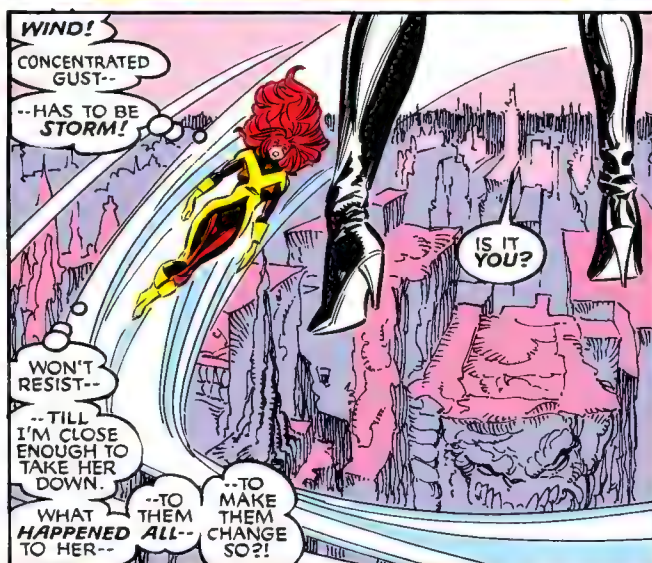
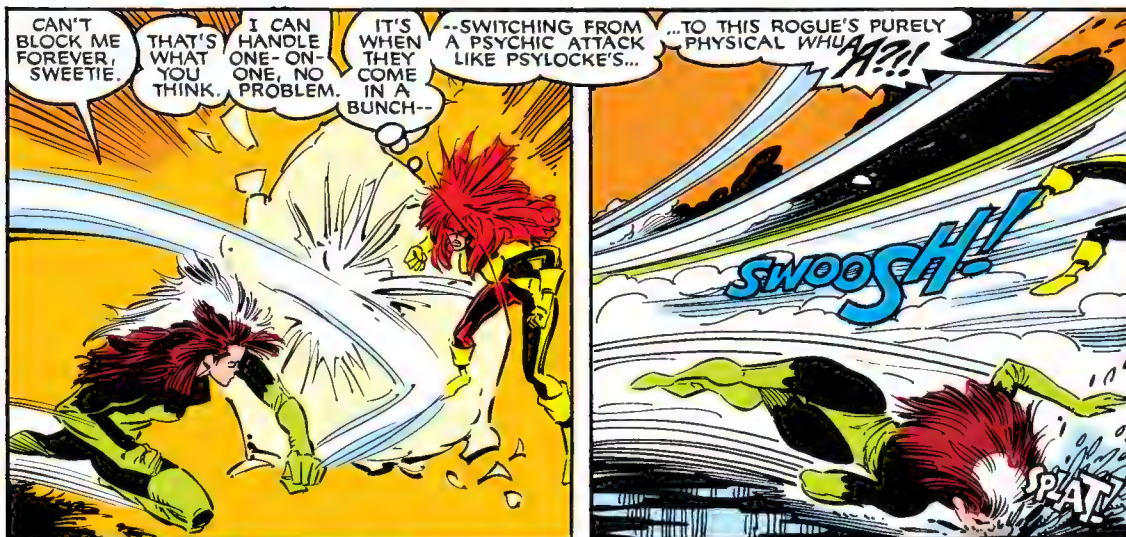


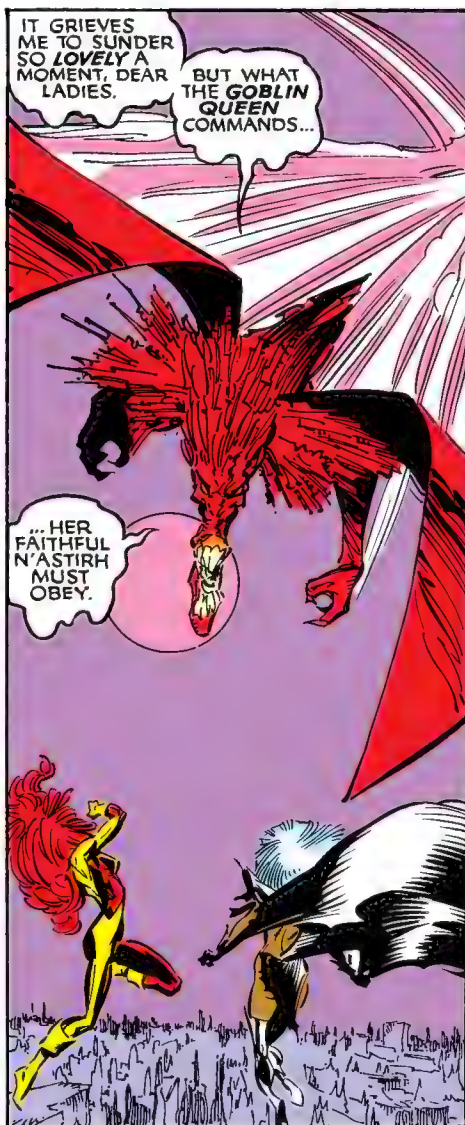








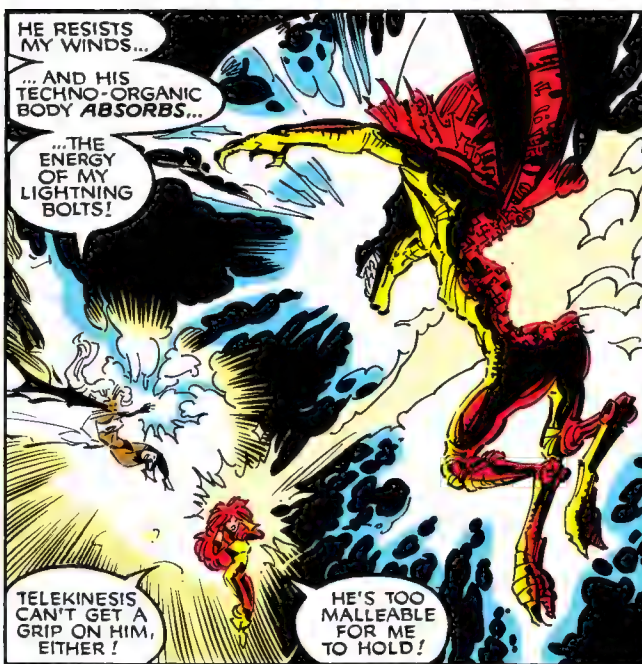




IT GRIEVES ME TO SUNDER SO LOVELY A MOMENT, DEAR LADIES.

BUT WHAT THE GOBLIN QUEEN COMMANDS...

...HER FAITHFUL N'ASTIRH MUST OBEY.



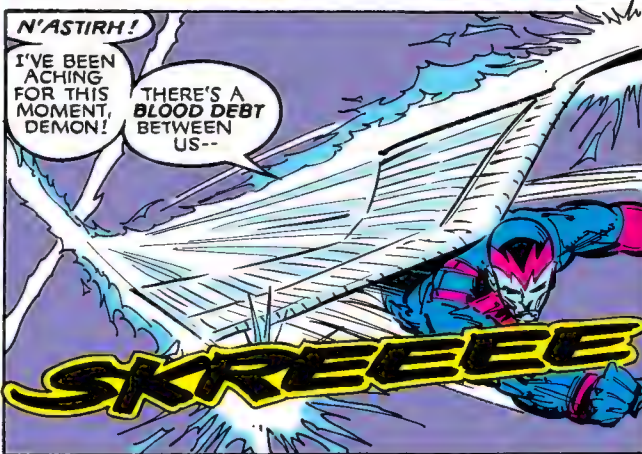
HE RESISTS MY WINDS...

...AND HIS TECHNO-ORGANIC BODY ABSORBS...

...THE ENERGY OF MY LIGHTNING BOLTS!

TELEKINESIS CAN'T GET A GRIP ON HIM, EITHER!

HE'S TOO MALLEABLE FOR ME TO HOLD!

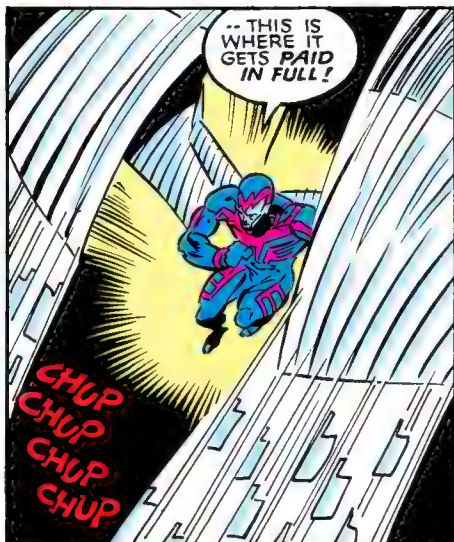


N'ASTIRH!

I'VE BEEN ACHING FOR THIS MOMENT, DEMON!

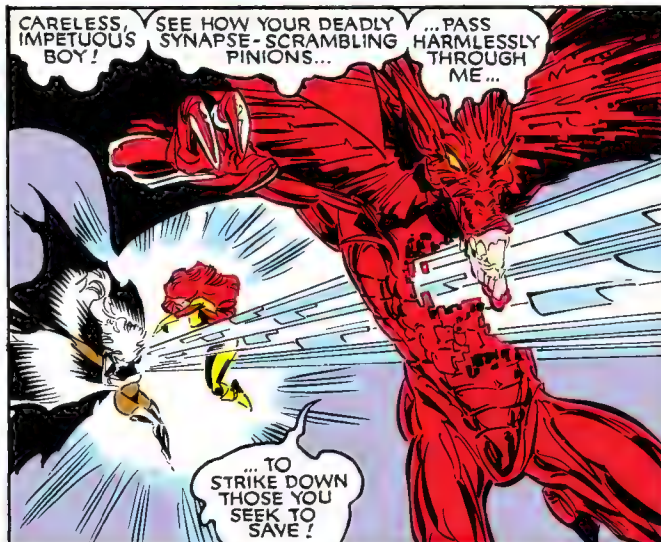
THERE'S A BLOOD DEBT BETWEEN US--

SKREEEE



-- THIS IS WHERE IT GETS PAID IN FULL!

CHUP
CHUP
CHUP
CHUP

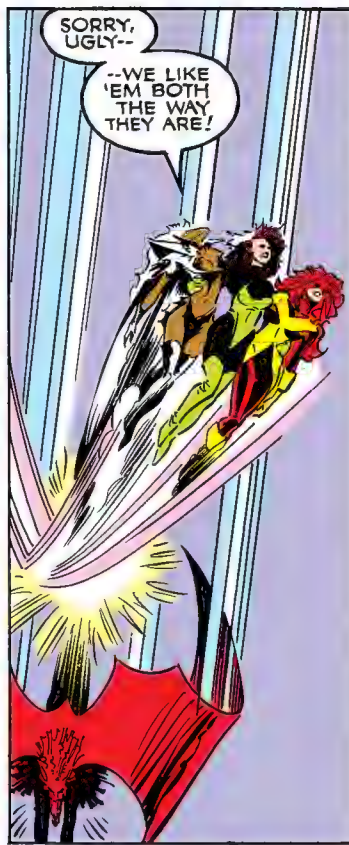


CARELESS, IMPETUOUS BOY!

SEE HOW YOUR DEADLY SYNAPSE-SCRAMBLING PINIONS...

...PASS HARMLESSLY THROUGH ME...

... TO STRIKE DOWN THOSE YOU SEEK TO SAVE!





YOU WERE A
FOOL TO CHALLENGE
ME, GIRL!

WANNA
BET?

Y'SEE, BUNKIE,
A WHILE BACK...

...THE X-MEN
FOUGHT THE
MAGUS,
RULER OF THE
TECHNARCHY.

AH
ABSORBED
A CHUNK
OF HIS
POWER--



--JUST LIKE AH'M
DOIN' NOW TO YOU!

IN THE
PROCESS, AH
GAINED AN
IMMUNITY TO
THAT VIRUS.

LONGER AH HOLD
ONTO YOU, NASTY...



...WEAKER
YOU'LL GET.
'TIL AH
POSSESS
ALL YOUR
POWER!

No!



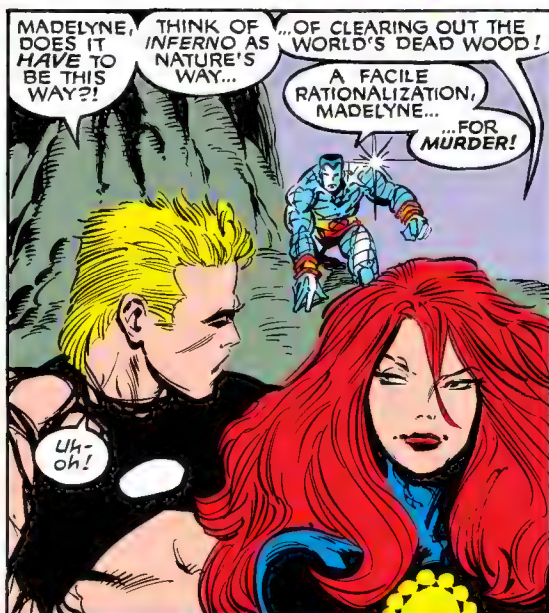
N'ASTIRH,
YOU
BUFFOON--
CAN'T YOU DO
ANYTHING
RIGHT?!

HER POWER
CAN ONLY
AFFECT
HIM...

HER NATURAL
INVULNERABILITY
MAY NOT BE
THE EQUAL OF
HIS STRENGTH.

...IF SHE'S
ALIVE TO
USE IT.

AT
LAST!



MADELYNE,
DOES IT
HAVE TO
BE THIS
WAY?!

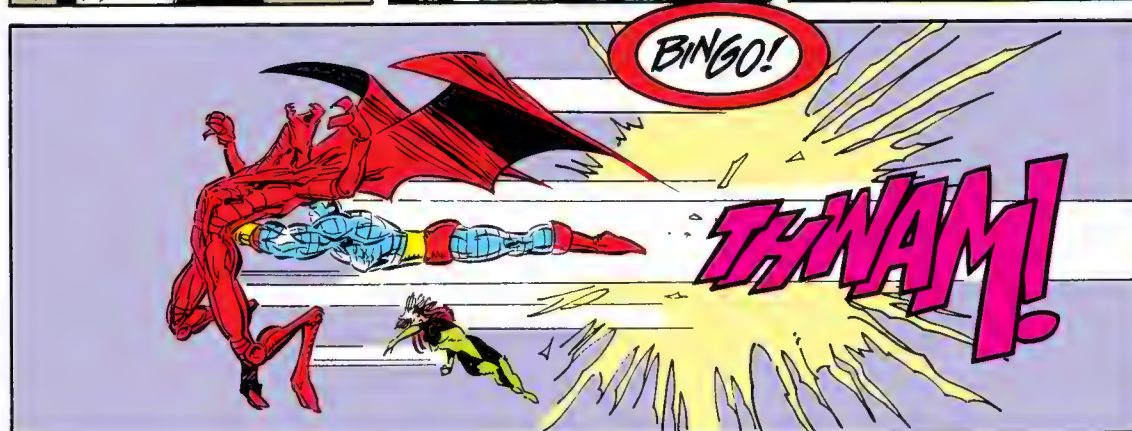
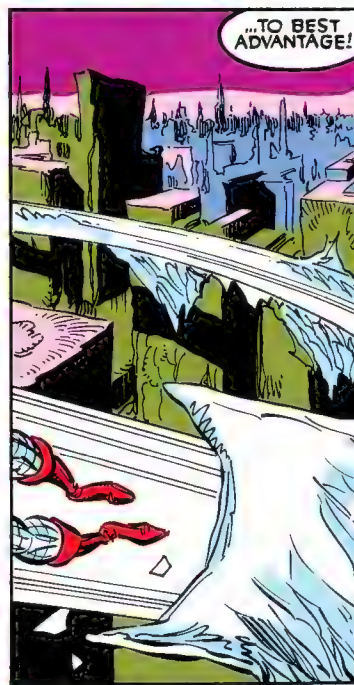
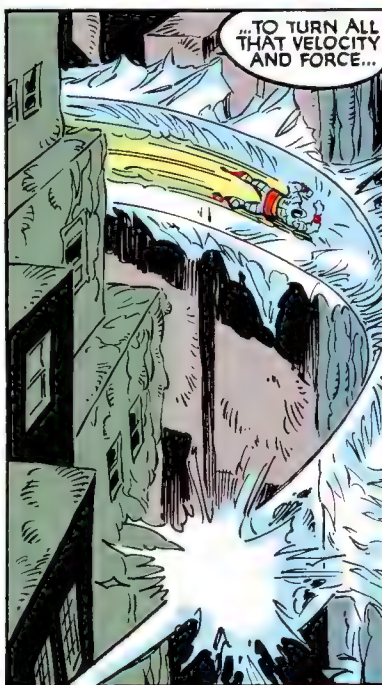
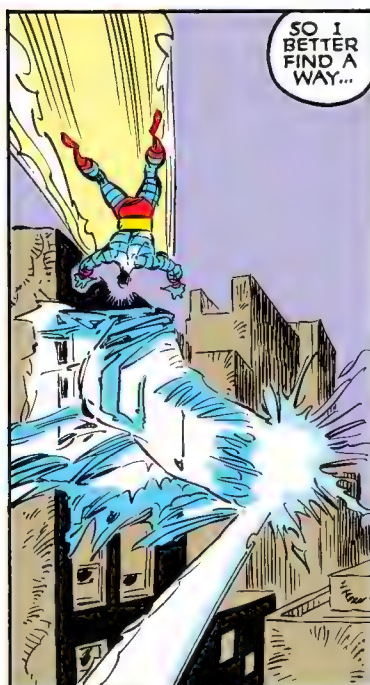
THINK OF
INFERNO AS
NATURE'S
WAY...

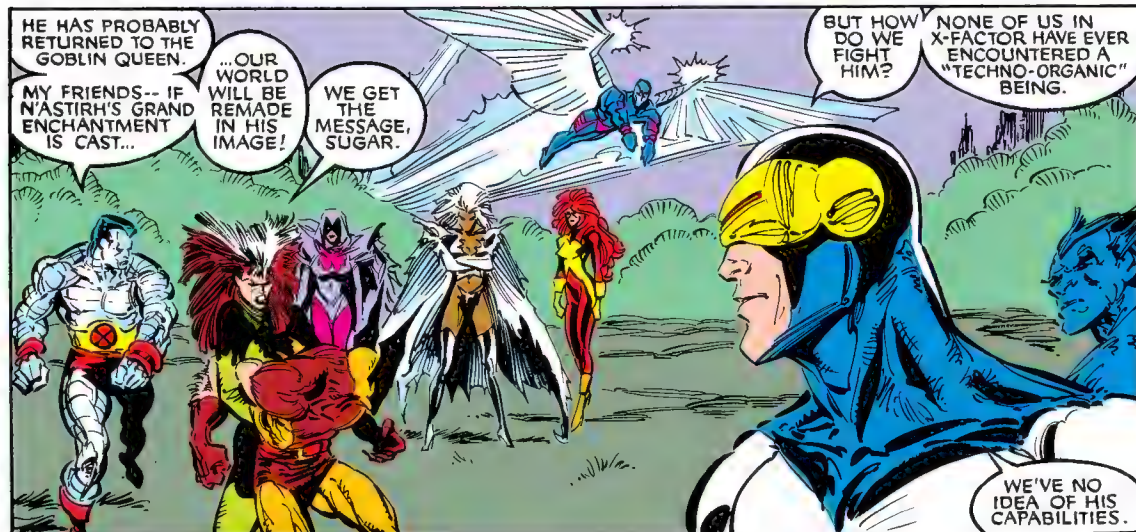
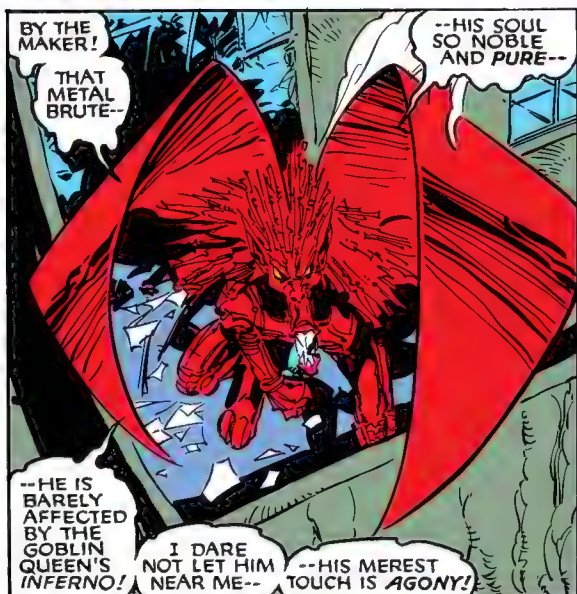
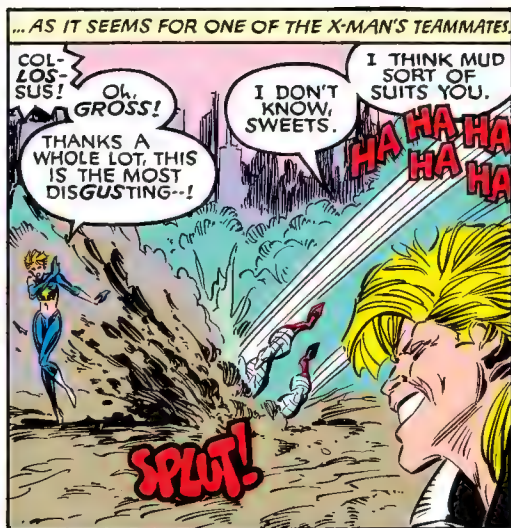
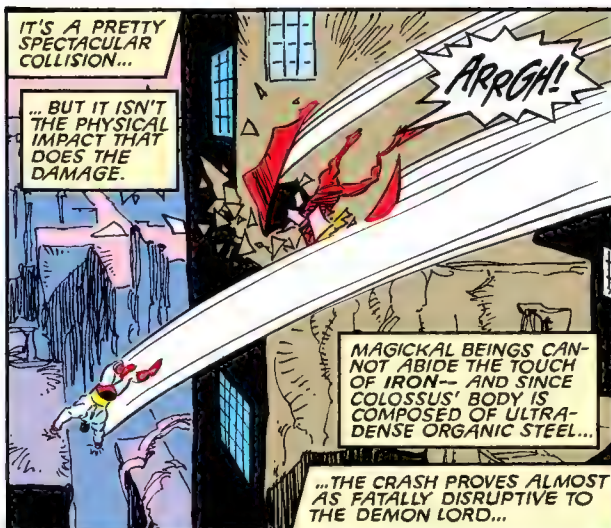
...OF CLEARING OUT THE
WORLD'S DEAD WOOD!

A FACILE
RATIONALIZATION,
MADELYNE...

...FOR
MURDER!

Uh-
oh!







ROGUE AND COLOSSUS DO.

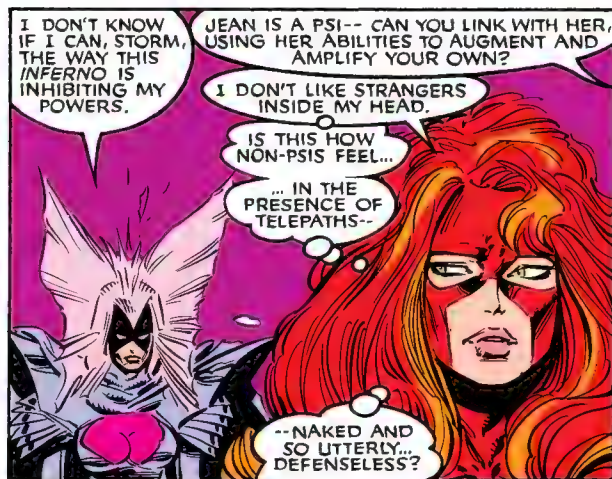
PSYLOCKE-- ESTABLISH A TELEPATHIC RAPPORT BETWEEN THE TWO TEAMS, SO WE MAY ALL SHARE THEIR MEMORIES OF THAT BATTLE.

I THOUGHT X-FACTOR WERE OUR FOES?

N'ASTIRH IS THE TRUE ENEMY.

SOMEHOW, HE HAS MADE MADELYNE HIS CATSPAW.

TO SAVE HER, WE MUST DEFEAT HIM.



I DON'T KNOW IF I CAN, STORM, THE WAY THIS INFERNO IS INHIBITING MY POWERS.

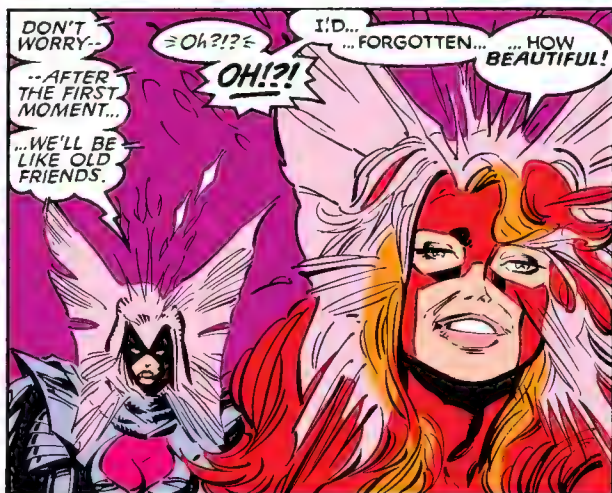
JEAN IS A PSI-- CAN YOU LINK WITH HER, USING HER ABILITIES TO AUGMENT AND AMPLIFY YOUR OWN?

I DON'T LIKE STRANGERS INSIDE MY HEAD.

IS THIS HOW NON-PSIS FEEL...

... IN THE PRESENCE OF TELEPATHS--

--NAKED AND SO UTTERLY... DEFENSELESS?



DON'T WORRY--

Oh?!?!

I'D... FORGOTTEN... HOW BEAUTIFUL!

-- AFTER THE FIRST MOMENT...

OH?!?!

...WE'LL BE LIKE OLD FRIENDS.



I "SEE" ANOTHER TECHNO-ORGANIC CREATURE-- THE MAGUS!

PHYSIOMORPH SHAPE-CHANGER.

BODY COMPOSED OF ORGANIC CIRCUITRY.

LIVING COMPUTER!

ABSORBS "LIFEGLOW" FROM OTHER LIVING BEINGS...

...AS WELL AS FROM NATURAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ENERGY SOURCES.



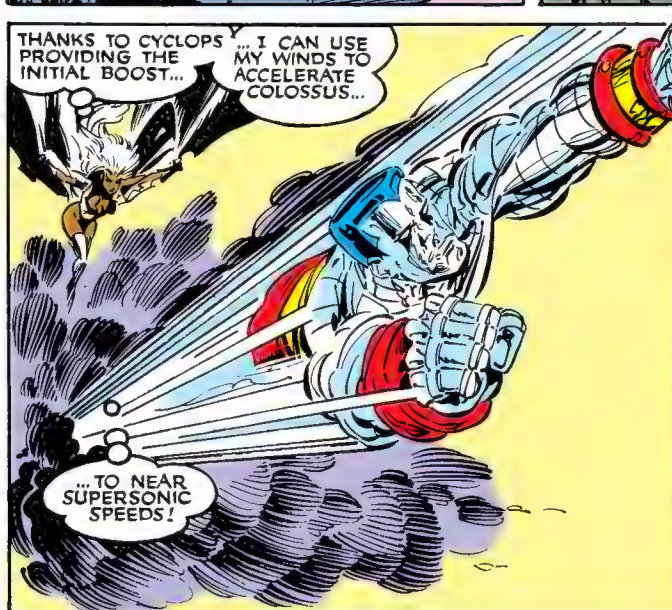
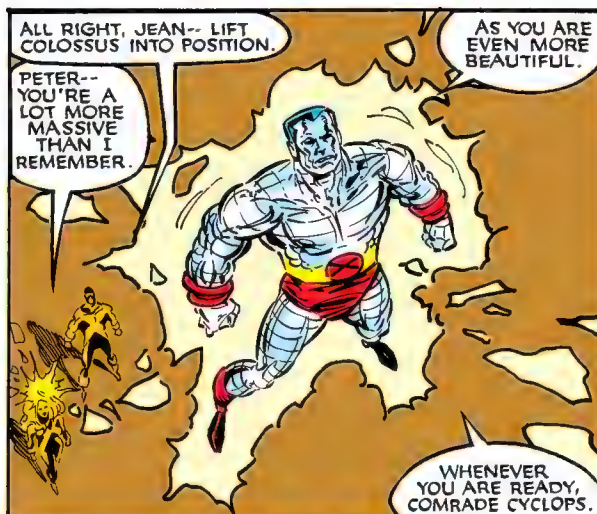
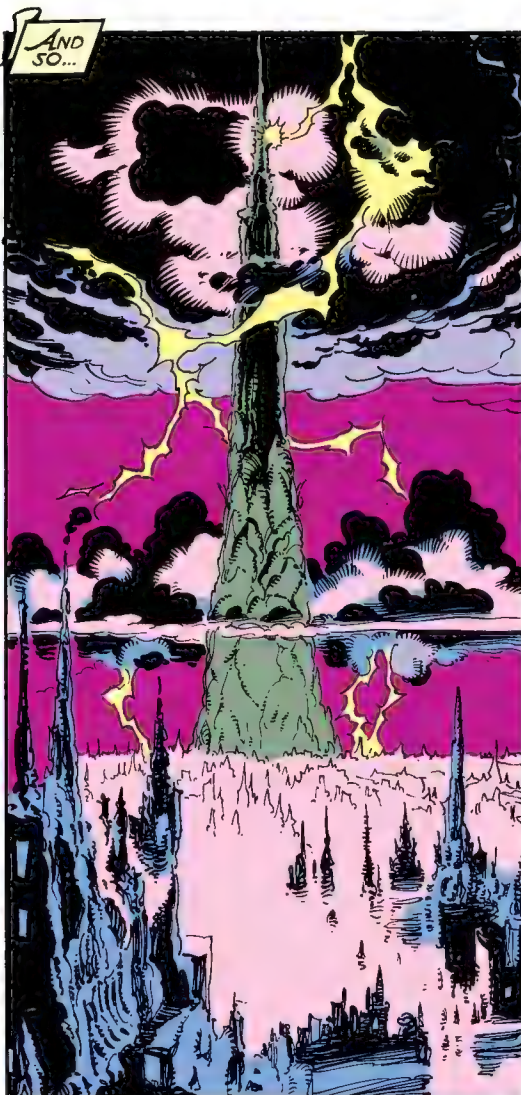
IT'S OVER.

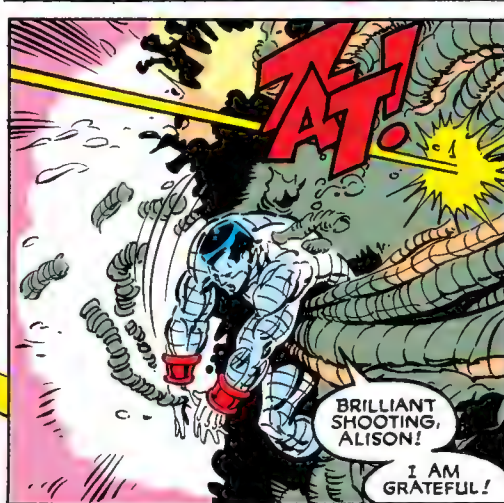
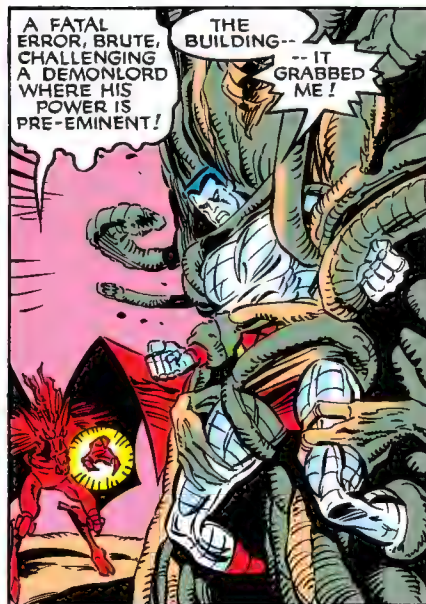
I'M... HOLLOW AGAIN.

PSYLOCKE'S WITHDRAWN HER SUPPORT. THE LIGHTS IN MY MIND, OF OTHERS' THOUGHTS, THEY'RE GOING OUT.

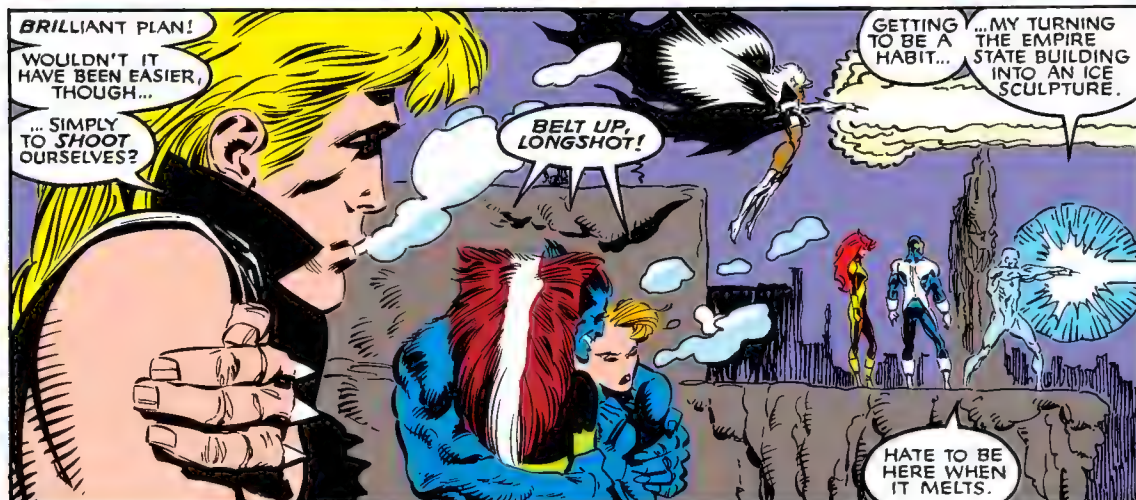
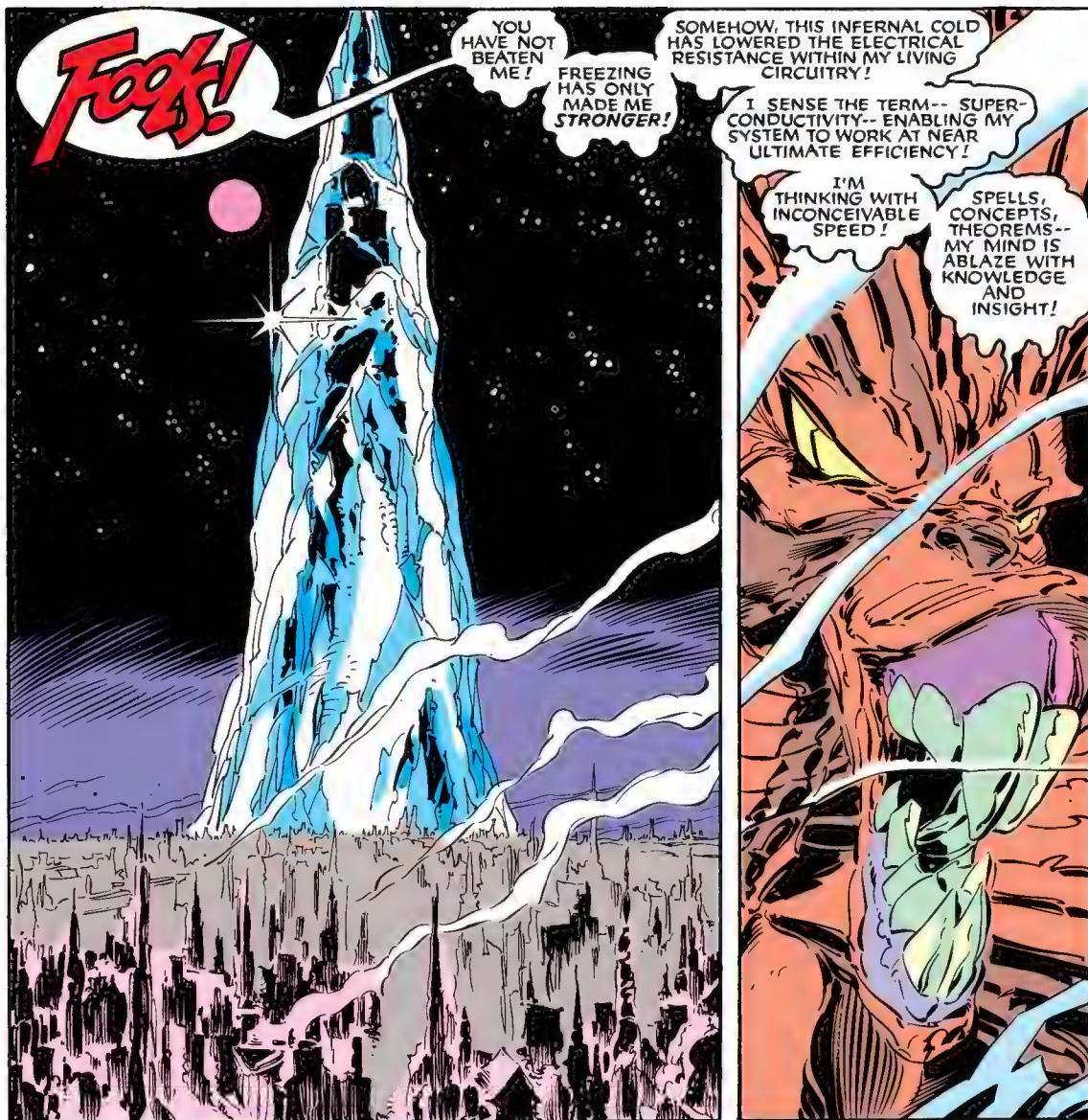
LADIES AND GENTS...

...I THINK I HAVE AN ABSOLUTELY BRILLIANT IDEA!

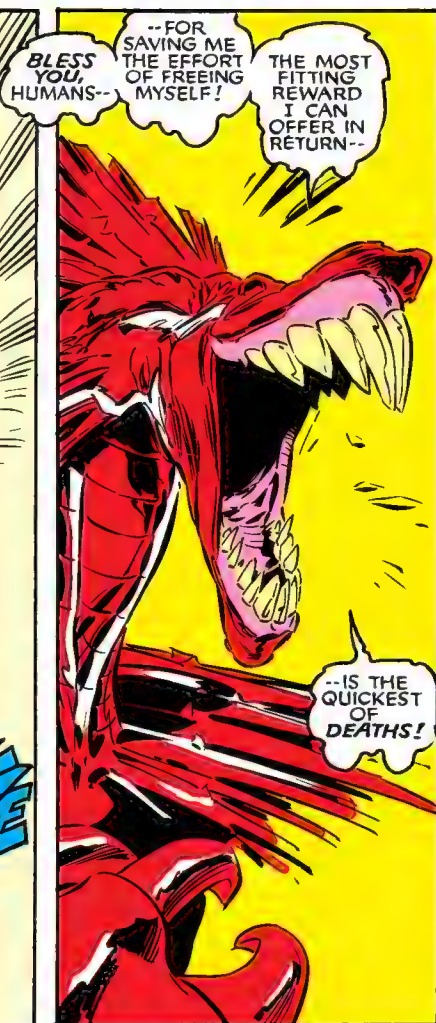












BLESS
YOU,
HUMANS--

--FOR
SAVING ME
THE EFFORT
OF FREEING
MYSELF!

THE MOST
FITTING
REWARD
I CAN
OFFER IN
RETURN--

--IS THE
QUICKEST
OF
DEATHS!



Uk?!!?

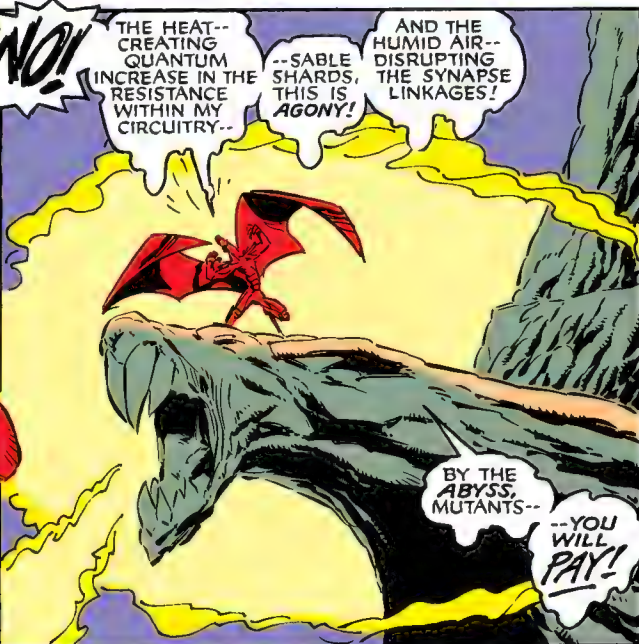
WHAT
IS...

...HAPPENING...

...TO
ME?!!

NO!

NO!



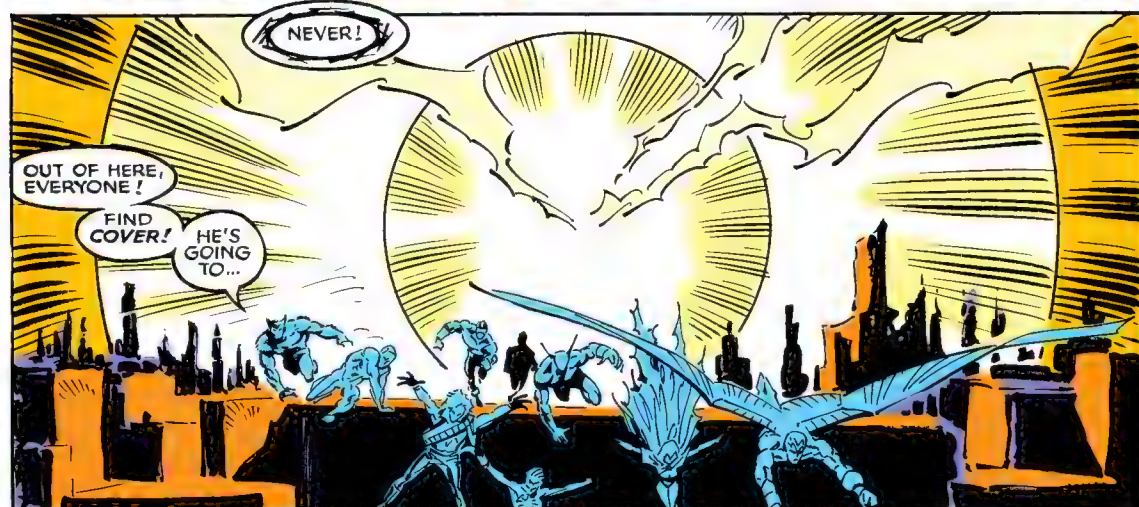
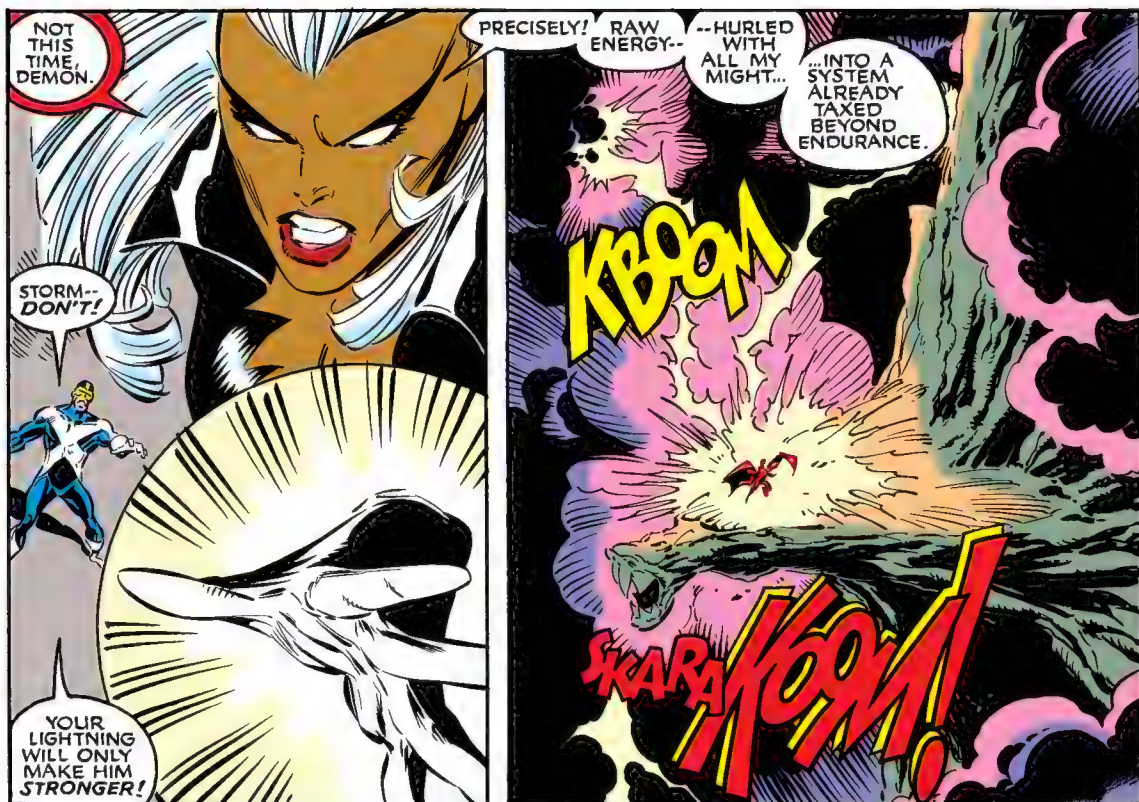
THE HEAT--
CREATING
QUANTUM
INCREASE IN THE
RESISTANCE
WITHIN MY
CIRCUITRY--

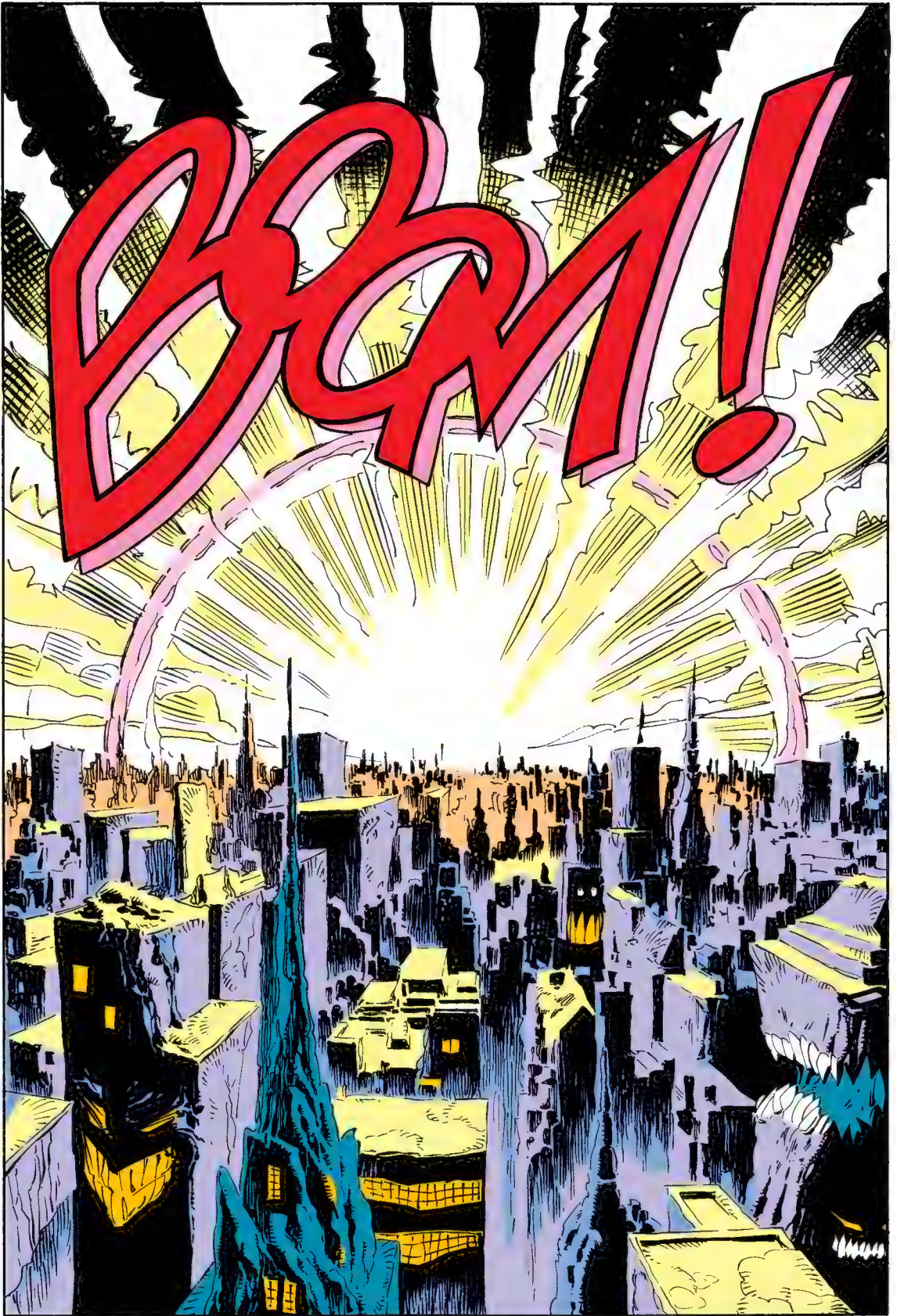
--SABLE
SHARDS,
THIS IS
AGONY!

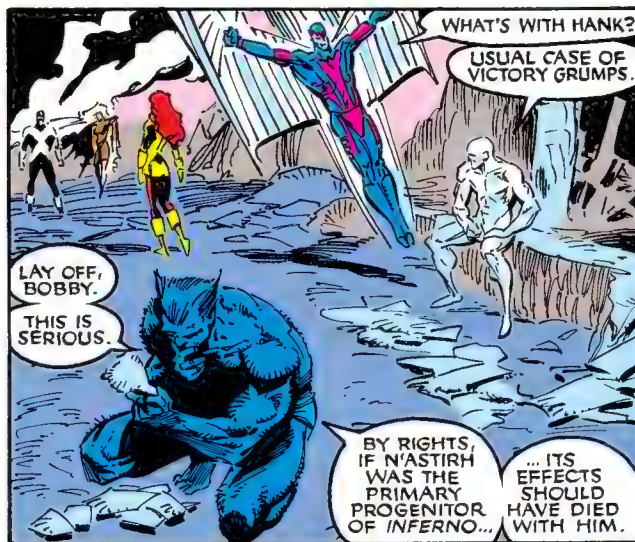
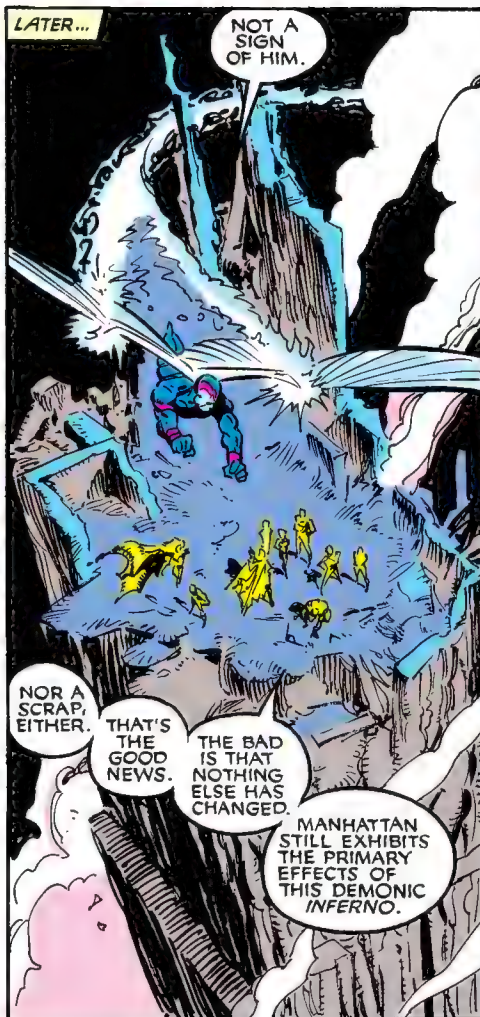
AND THE
HUMID AIR--
DISRUPTING
THE SYNAPSE
LINKAGES!

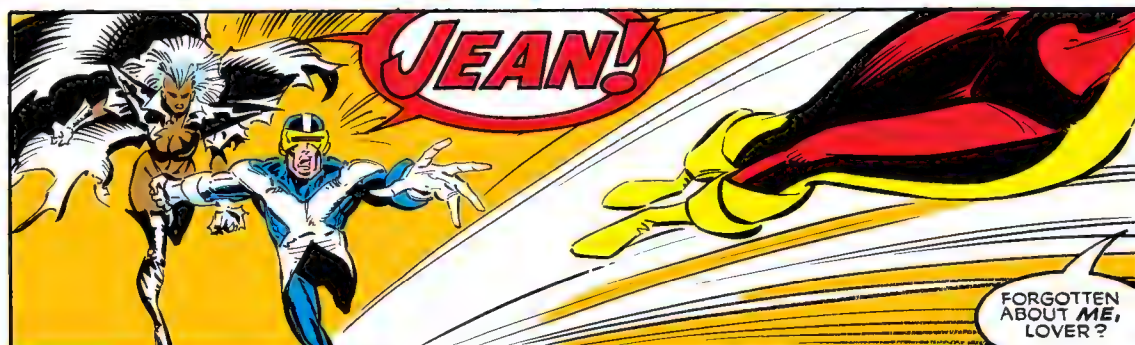
BY THE
ABYSS,
MUTANTS--

--YOU
WILL
PAY!











NOW--
X-MEN AND
X-FACTOR--

--IT'S
YOUR
TURN!

TO BE
CONTINUED
IN
X-FACTOR
#36!

NEXT IN X-MEN #243--
PART THE 4th,

ASHES

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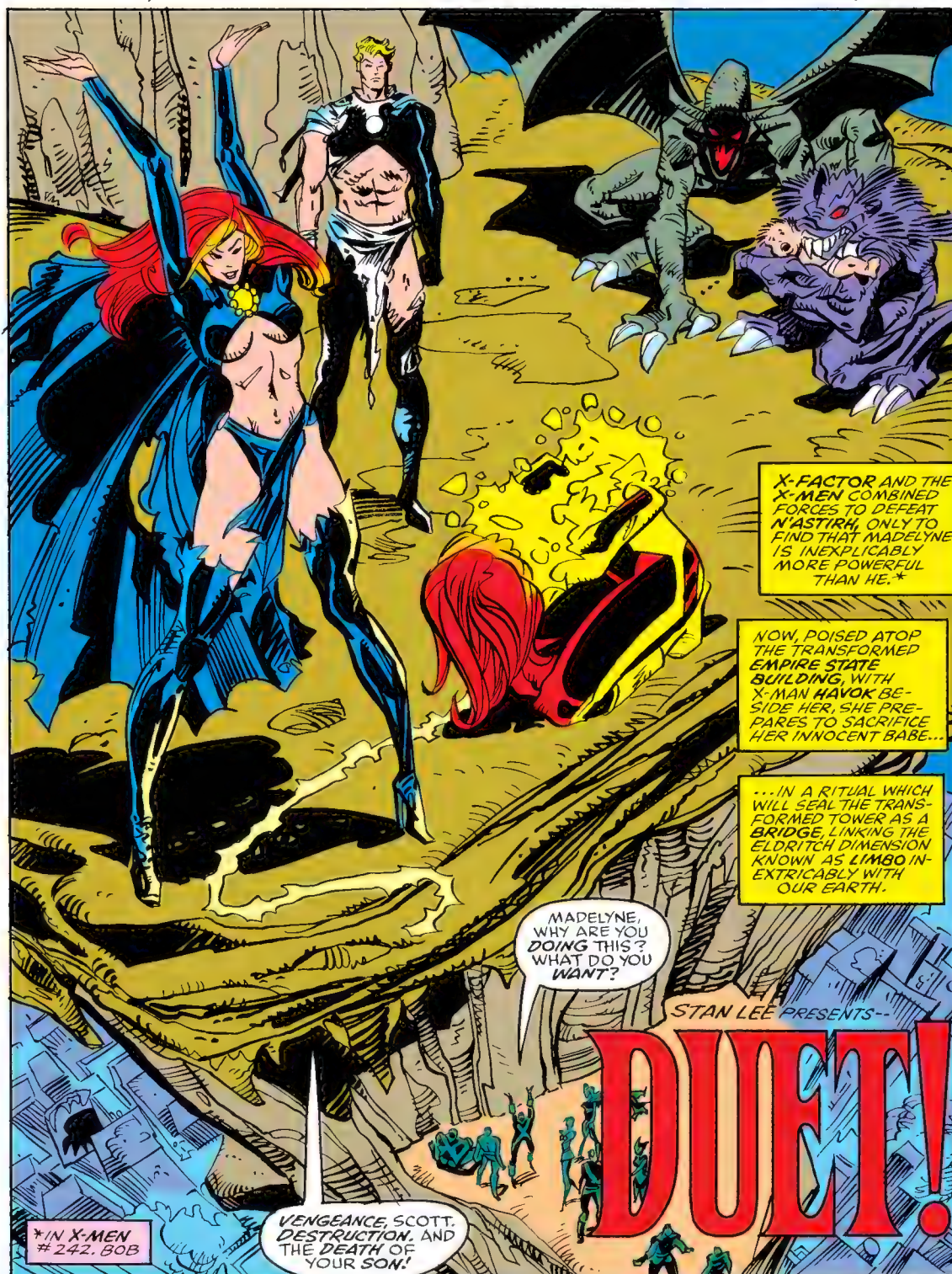
INTERNO

**GIANT-SIZED
SPECTACULAR!**



9-26-88

MADELYNE PRYOR'S LOSS OF IDENTITY AND SMOULDERING HATRED MADE HER EASY PREY FOR THE TECHNO-DEMON, N'ASTIRH. SHE ACCEPTED HIS OFFER OF POWER AND BECAME THE GOBLIN QUEEN.



X-FACTOR AND THE X-MEN COMBINED FORCES TO DEFEAT N'ASTIRH, ONLY TO FIND THAT MADELYNE IS INEXPLICABLY MORE POWERFUL THAN HE.*

NOW, POISED ATOP THE TRANSFORMED EMPIRE STATE BUILDING, WITH X-MAN HAVOK BESIDE HER, SHE PREPARES TO SACRIFICE HER INNOCENT BABE...

...IN A RITUAL WHICH WILL SEAL THE TRANSFORMED TOWER AS A BRIDGE, LINKING THE ELDRITCH DIMENSION KNOWN AS LIMBO INEXTRICABLY WITH OUR EARTH.

MADELYNE, WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS? WHAT DO YOU WANT?

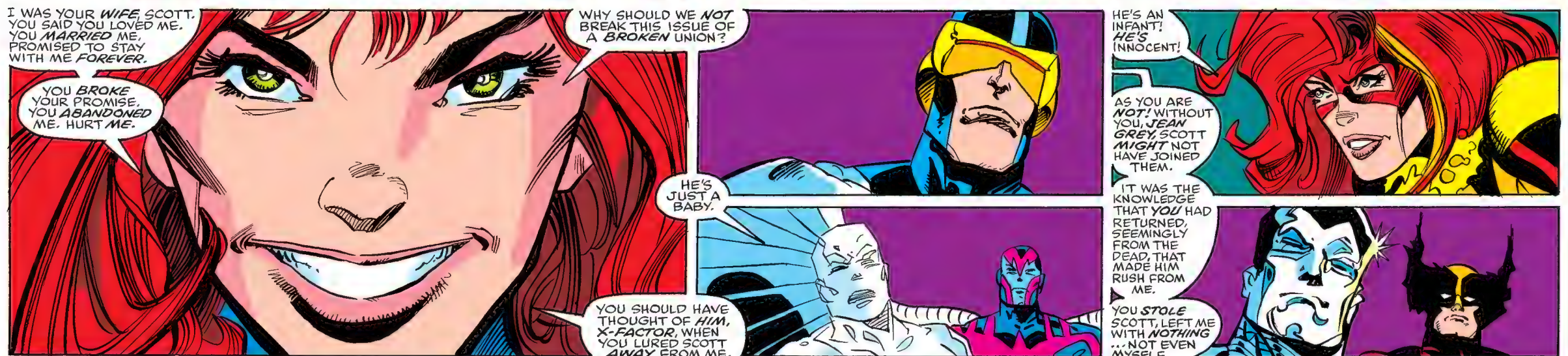
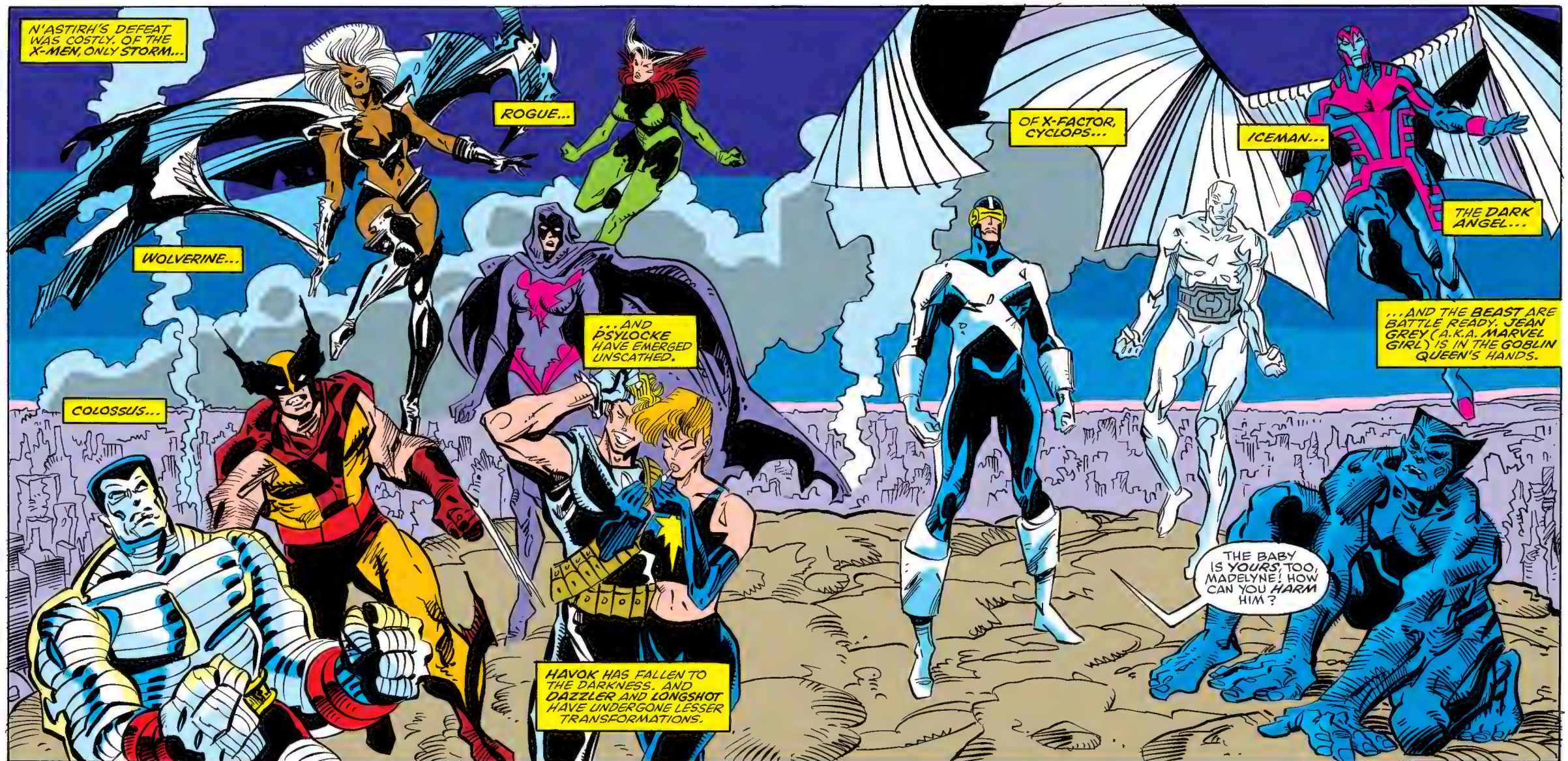
VENGEANCE, SCOTT. DESTRUCTION, AND THE DEATH OF YOUR SON!

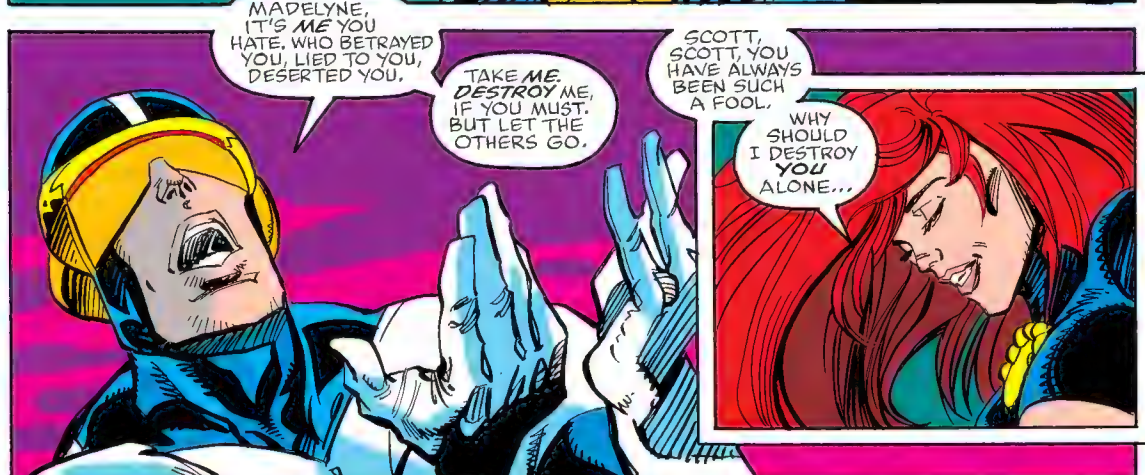
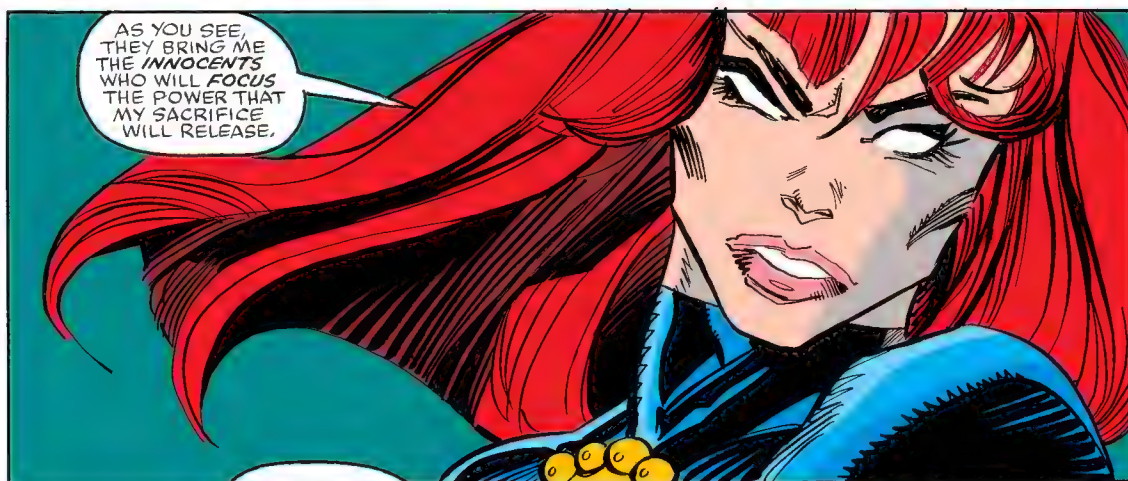
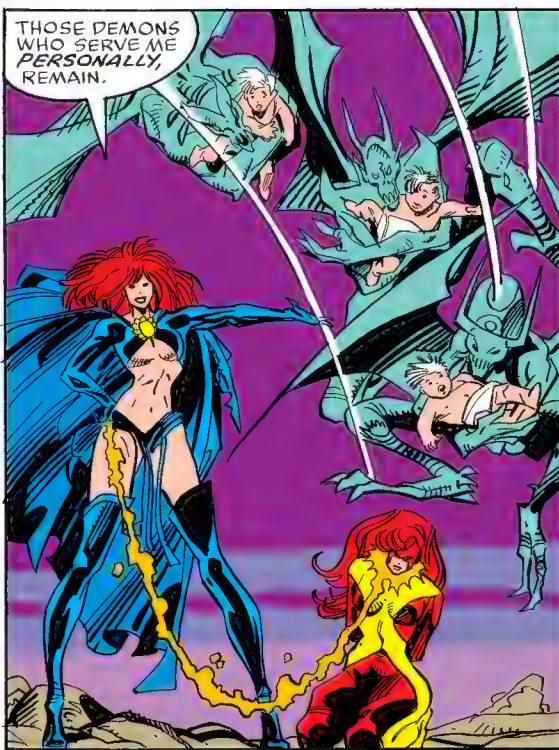
*IN X-MEN #242, 80B

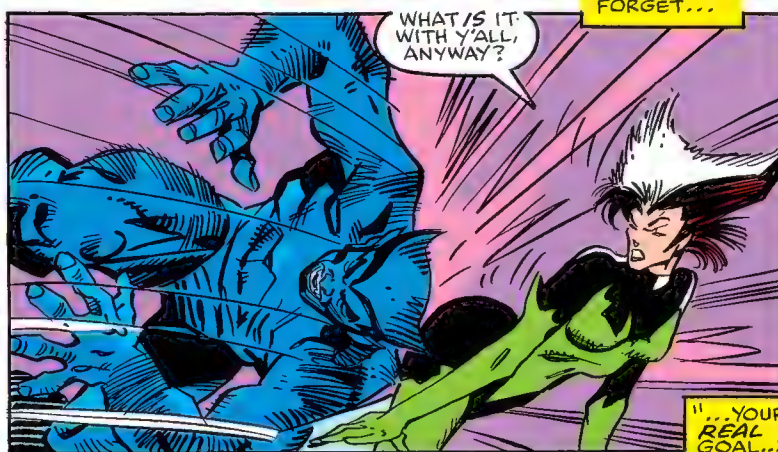
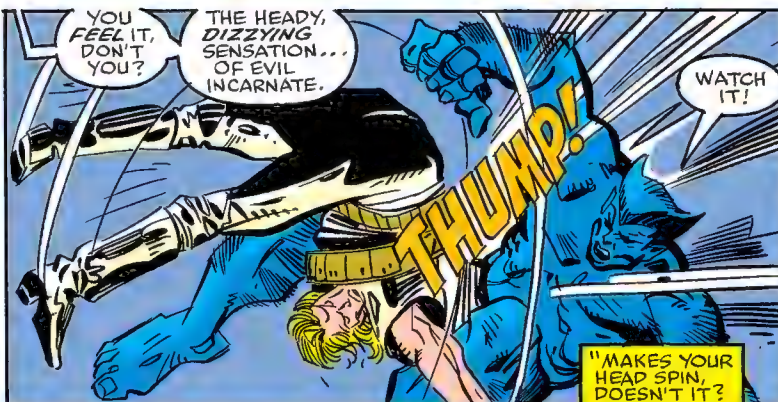
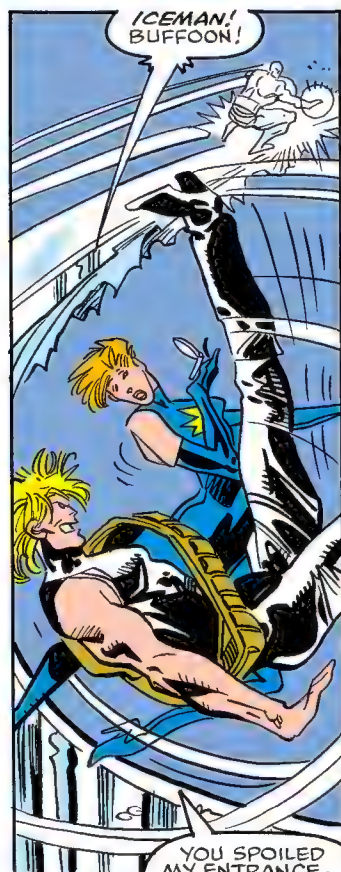
STAN LEE PRESENTS--

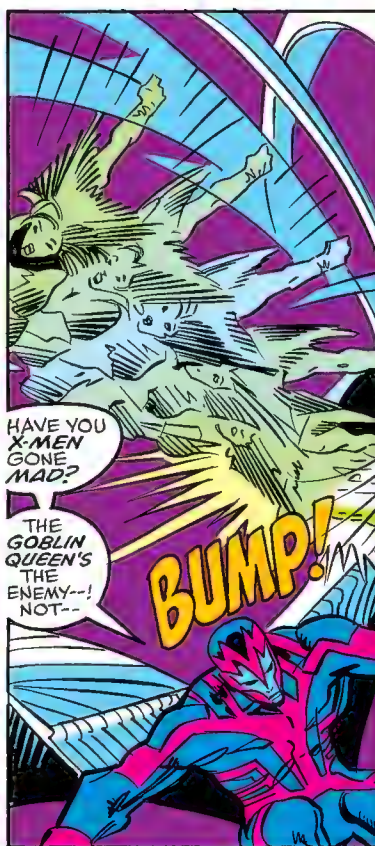
DUET!

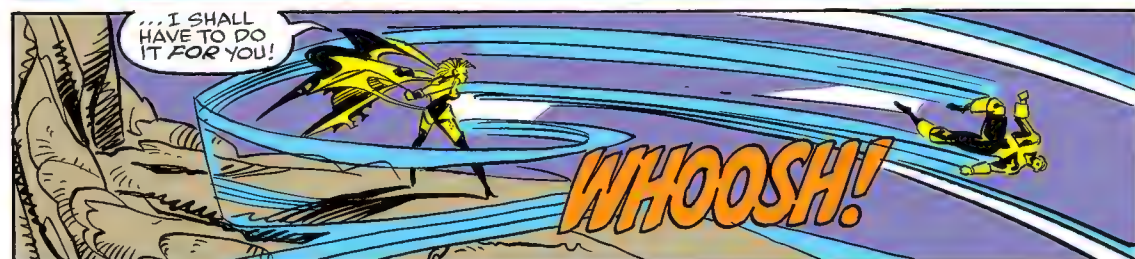
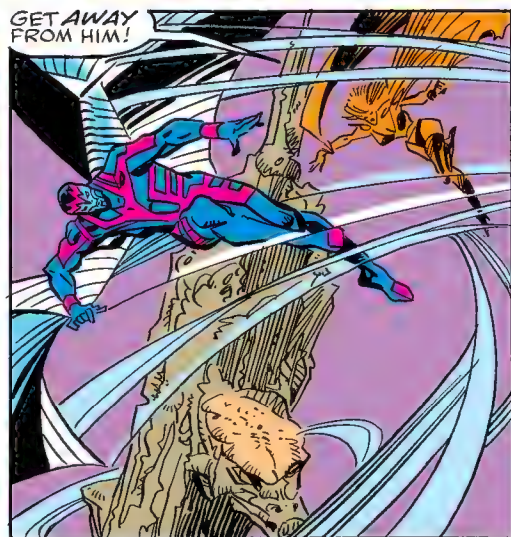
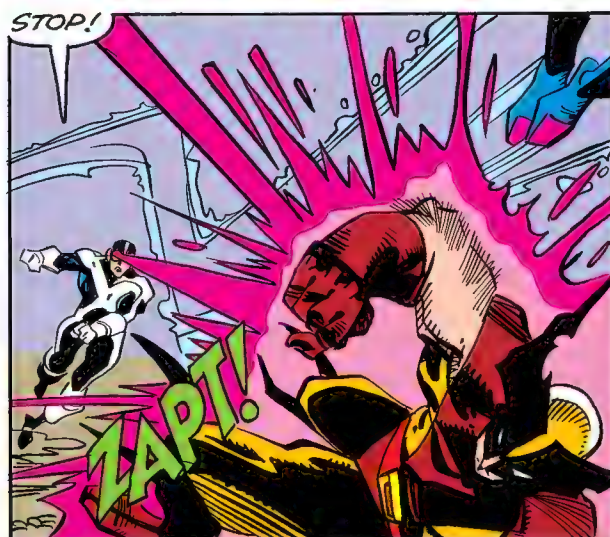
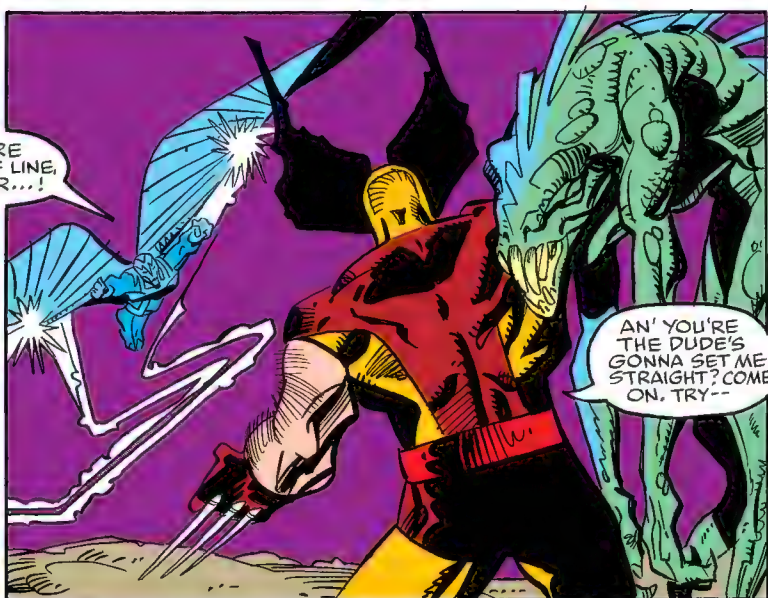
LOUISE SIMONSON WRITER WALTER SIMONSON PENCILER AL MILGROM INKER JOE ROSEN LETTERER TOM VINCENT COLORIST BOB HARRAS EDITOR TOM DEFALCO EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

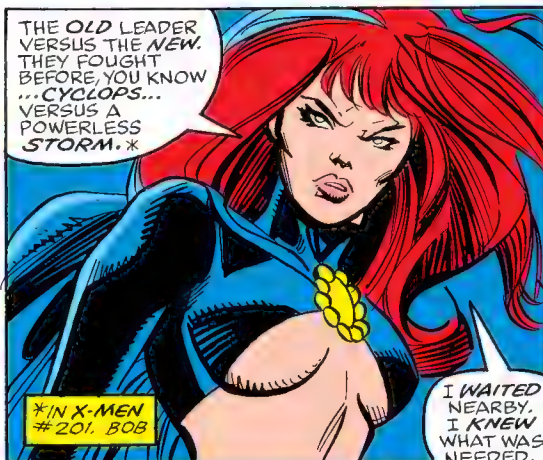
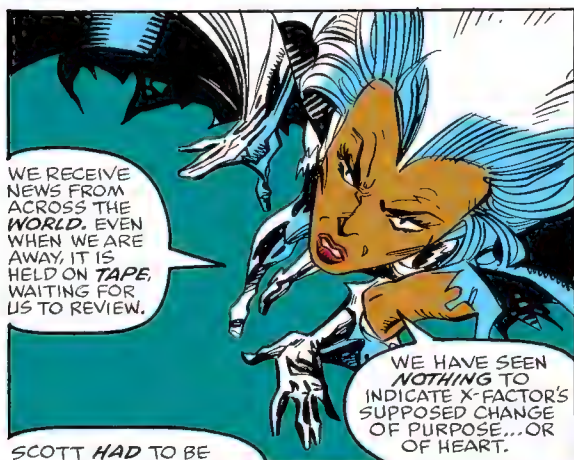




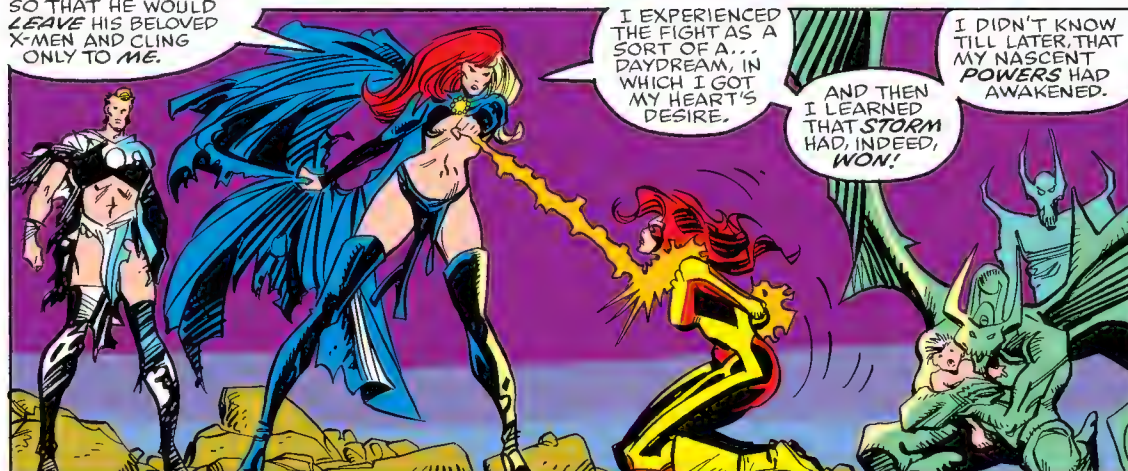




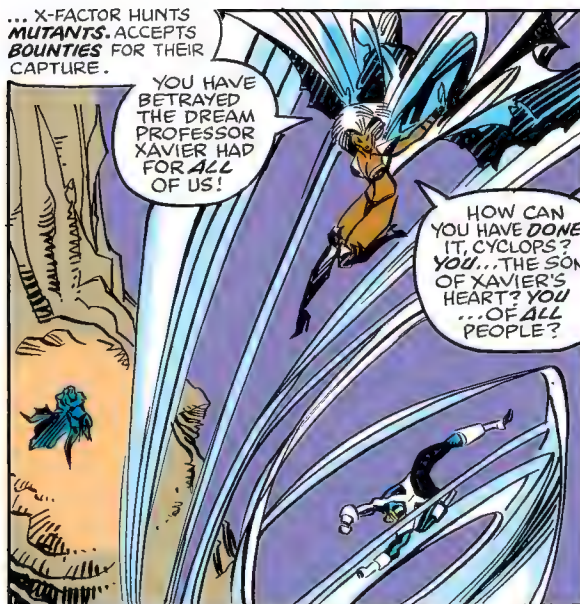




SCOTT HAD TO BE HUMILIATED. DEFEATED. SO THAT HE WOULD LEAVE HIS BELOVED X-MEN AND CLING ONLY TO ME.



... X-FACTOR HUNTS
MUTANTS. ACCEPTS
BOUNTIES FOR THEIR
CAPTURE.



YOU HAVE
BETRAYED
THE DREAM
PROFESSOR
XAVIER HAD
FOR ALL
OF US!

HOW CAN
YOU HAVE DONE
IT, CYCLOPS?
YOU... THE SON
OF XAVIER'S
HEART? YOU
...OF ALL
PEOPLE?

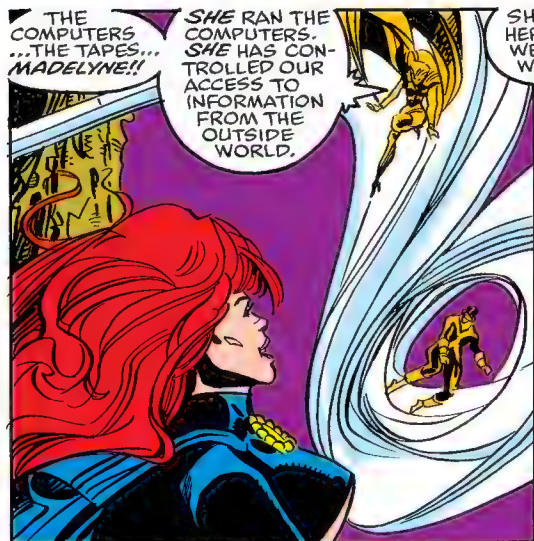
THAT'S ABSURD!
STORM, STOP
TALKING AND
LISTEN TO
ME, THINK!



YOU SAY
THE NEWS
WAS WAITING
FOR YOU TO
REVIEW.

WHERE DID
THE NEWS COME
FROM, STORM, WHO
PROVIDED IT?

THE
COMPUTERS
...THE TAPES...
MADELYNE!!

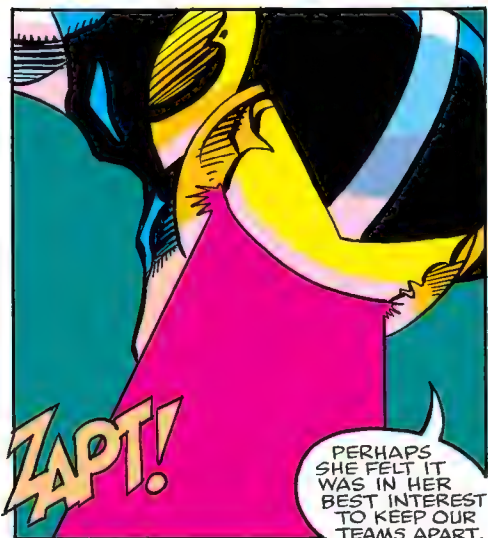


SHE RAN THE
COMPUTERS.
SHE HAS CON-
TROLLED OUR
ACCESS TO
INFORMATION
FROM THE
OUTSIDE
WORLD.

SHE INSISTED. IT WAS
HER WAY OF HELPING.
WE THOUGHT SHE
WAS OUR FRIEND.

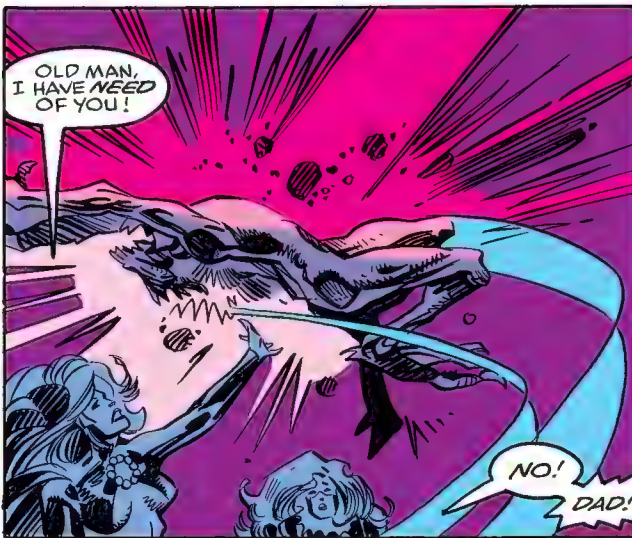


CAN IT BE
TRUE? WAS SHE
THE X-MEN'S
ENEMY... EVEN
THEN...?



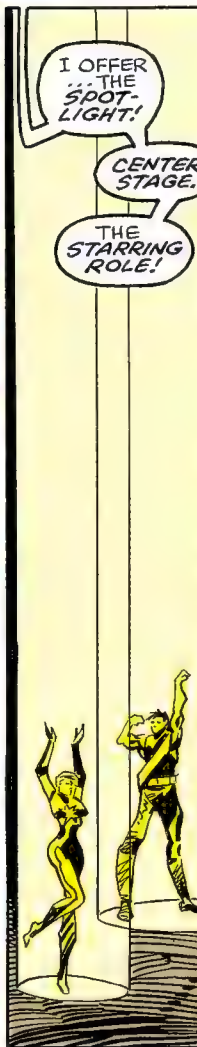
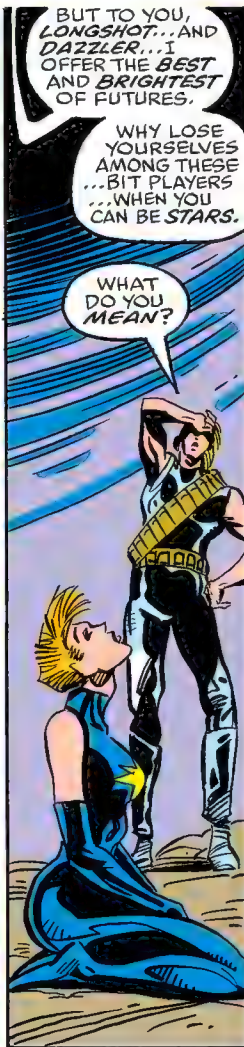
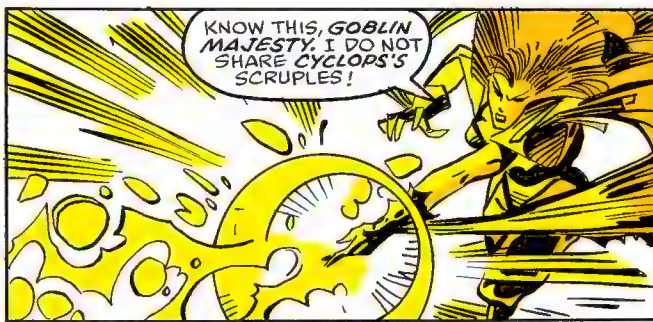
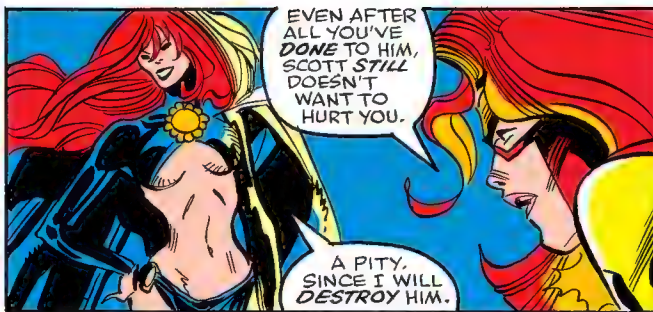
ZAPT!

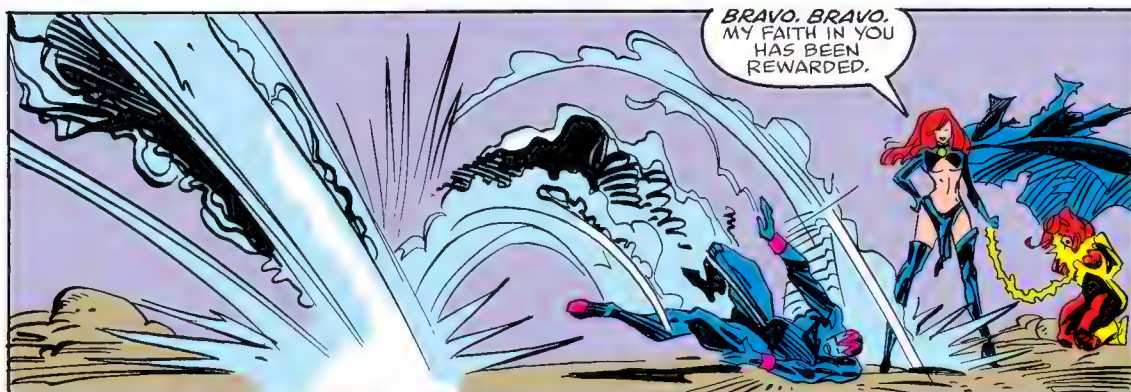
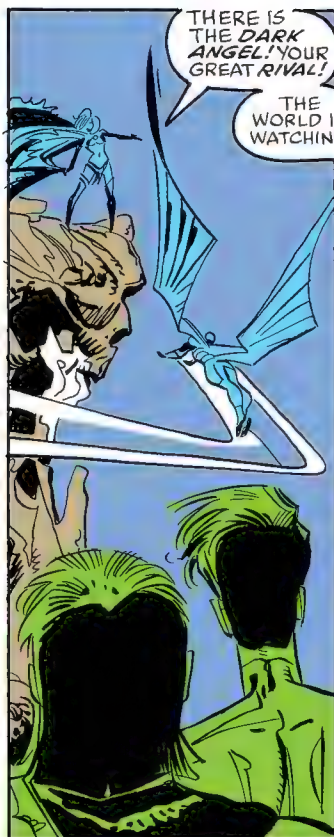
PERHAPS
SHE FELT IT
WAS IN HER
BEST INTEREST
TO KEEP OUR
TEAMS APART.



OLD MAN,
I HAVE NEED
OF YOU!

NO!
DAD!



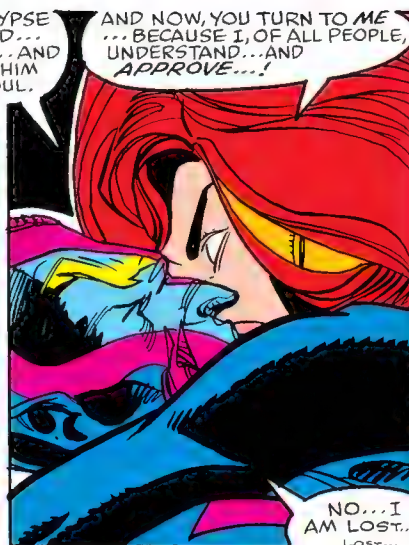
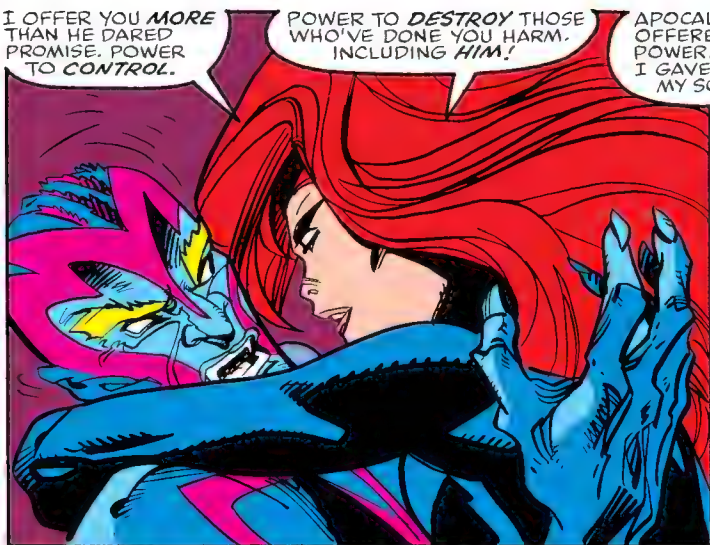


I OFFER YOU MORE
THAN HE DARED
PROMISE. POWER
TO CONTROL.

POWER TO DESTROY THOSE
WHO'VE DONE YOU HARM.
INCLUDING HIM!

APOCALYPSE
OFFERED...
POWER... AND
I GAVE HIM
MY SOUL.

AND NOW, YOU TURN TO ME
... BECAUSE I, OF ALL PEOPLE,
UNDERSTAND...AND
APPROVE...!



NO... I
AM LOST...
LOST...

IN MY NEW
ORDER, YOU
WILL BE
FOUND.

ALL OF
LIMBO IS
BEHIND
ME.

IN THE
DARKNESS
BEFORE THE
DAWN, I GROW
STRONGER.

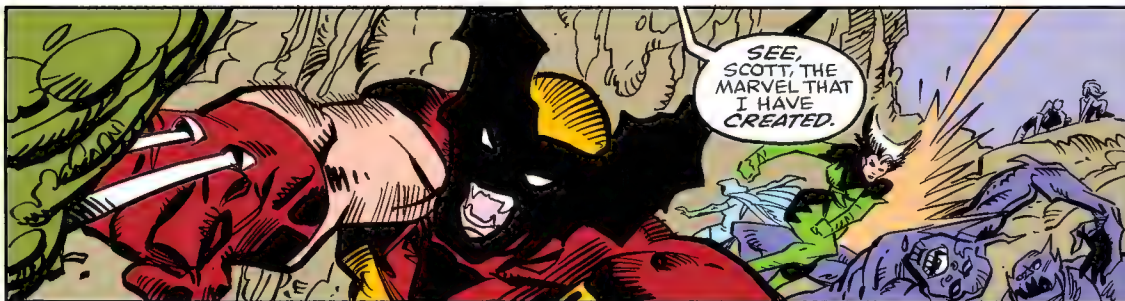
NEGATIVE
ENERGY RISES
FROM THE
BATTLE BELOW
... FUELS MY
POWER.

ALL
THAT I
AM HAS
TURNED
TO HATE...

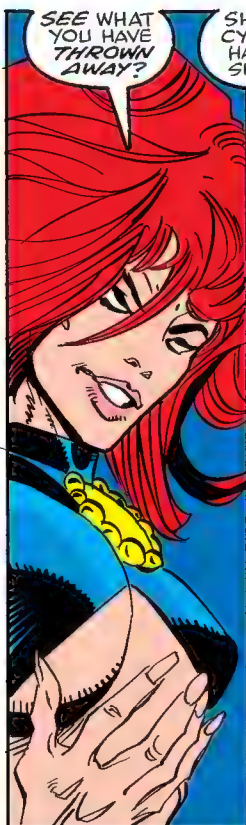
... AND THE
DAGGER THAT
I HAVE RAISED
WILL RIP OPEN
HEAVEN'S HEART.



THE EARTH
WILL TREMBLE
AND SHATTER
INTO PIECES
BEFORE MY
TOWERING
RAGE.

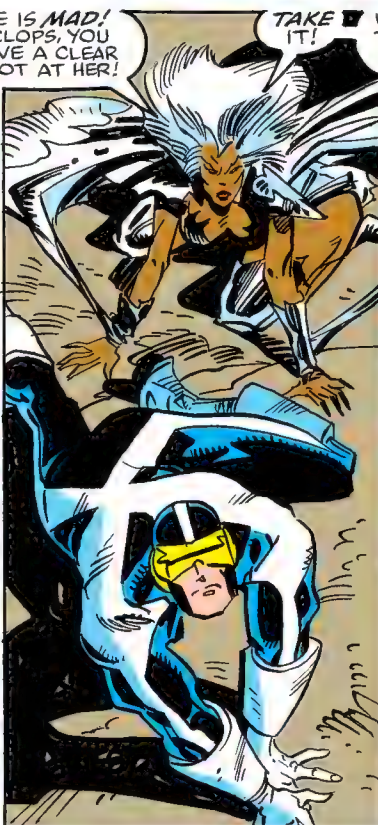


SEE, SCOTT, THE MARVEL THAT I HAVE CREATED.



SEE WHAT YOU HAVE THROWN AWAY?

SHE IS MAD! CYCLOPS, YOU HAVE A CLEAR SHOT AT HER!



TAKE IT!

WITH MORE THAN THE STUN FORCE THAT YOU USED BEFORE.

I'LL TAKE THE SHOT! I'LL TRY TO STOP HER, BUT I CAN'T KILL HER.

LORD HELP ME, STORM, I'VE HURT HER SO BADLY. MOST OF WHAT SHE SAYS OF ME IS TRUE.



AND SHE IS THE MOTHER OF MY CHILD!



MY, MY, SCOTT... SUCH SCRIPPLES. AS IF YOUR OPTIC BLAST, EVEN AT LETHAL FORCE, COULD TOUCH ME.

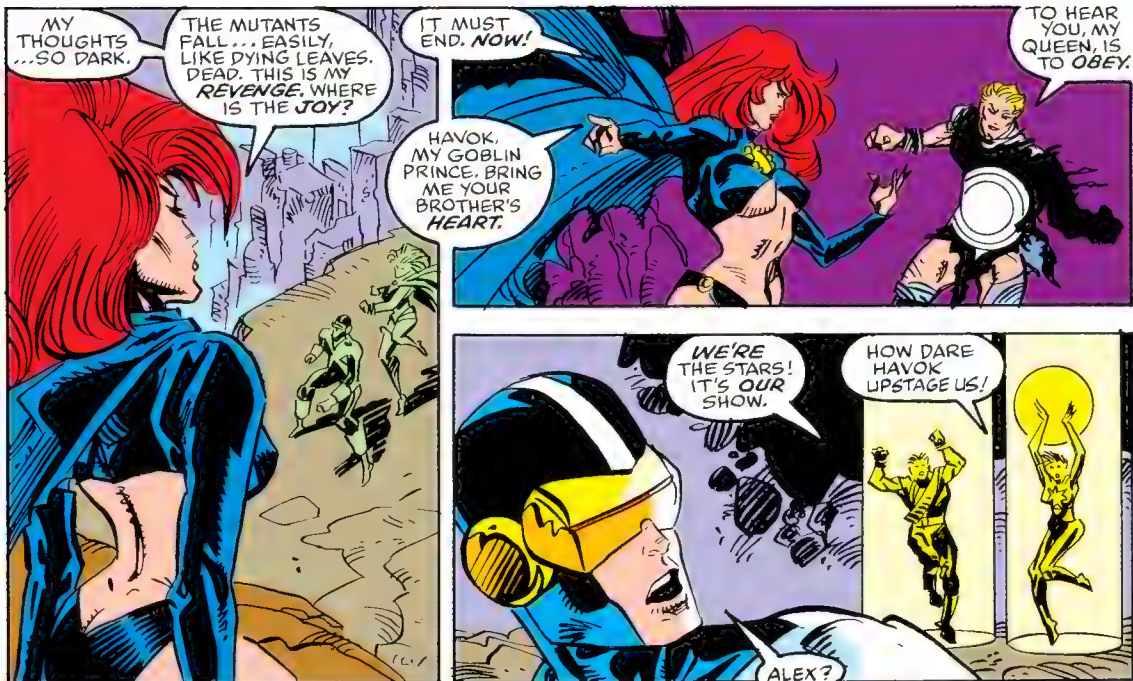
APOCALYPSE BEGAN MY TRANSFORMATION. HE CHANGED MY BODY...

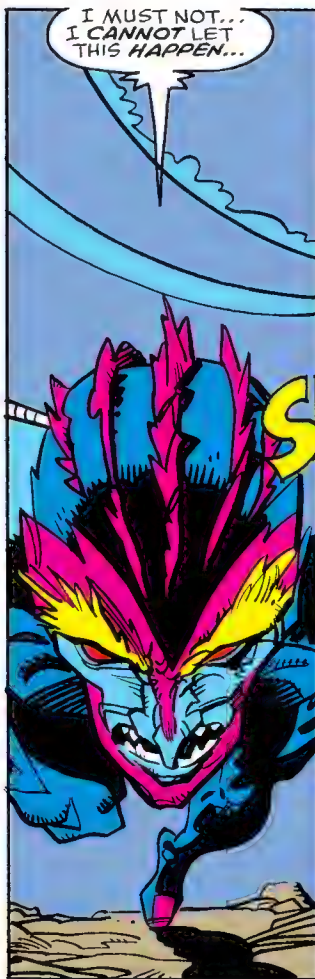
...AND INTRODUCED ME TO THE DARKNESS IN MY SOUL. THIS IS HIS LEGACY.

SHE PROMISED ME POWER... TO DESTROY. I WANT TO... AND YET... I MUST FIGHT IT...

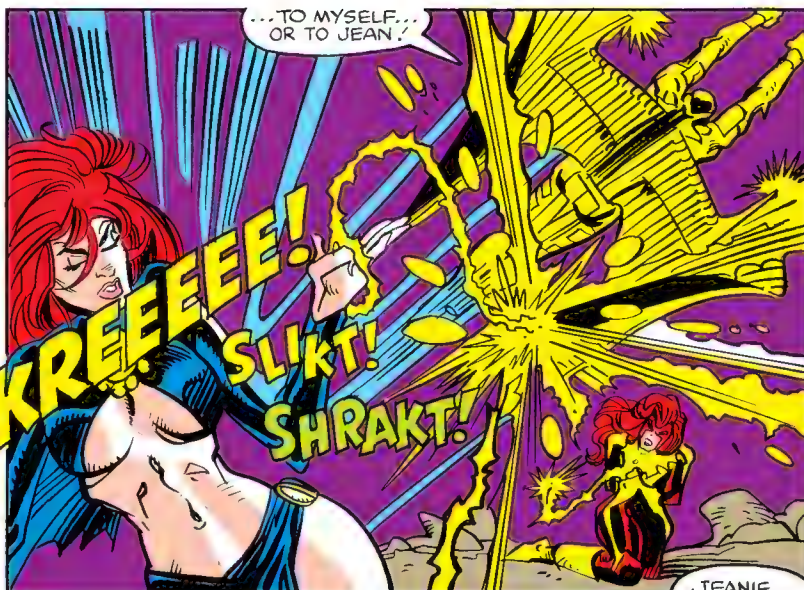


...OR WHAT WILL TRULY BE DESTROYED... IS MY SELF!





I MUST NOT...
I CANNOT LET
THIS HAPPEN...



...TO MYSELF...
OR TO JEANIE!

JEANIE...
YOU'RE
FREE!



THUD!



YEARGH!

WHAT...
HAPPENED?
ANGEL
DISRUPTED
JEAN'S
BONDS.



BACKLASH
SOMEHOW
CLEARED MY
HEAD.

SHE'S
FREE...
BUT
ANGEL--



DON'T
COUNT
ON IT,
BUB.

HIM
WE
KILL!



WHO DOES STORM THINK SHE IS? I'LL BURN A SPOTLIGHT RIGHT THROUGH HER!



THAT'S WHAT YOU THINK, SUGAR PIE!



WHRAMM!



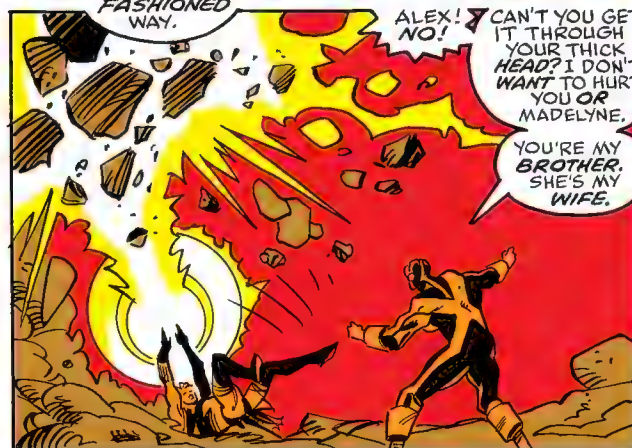
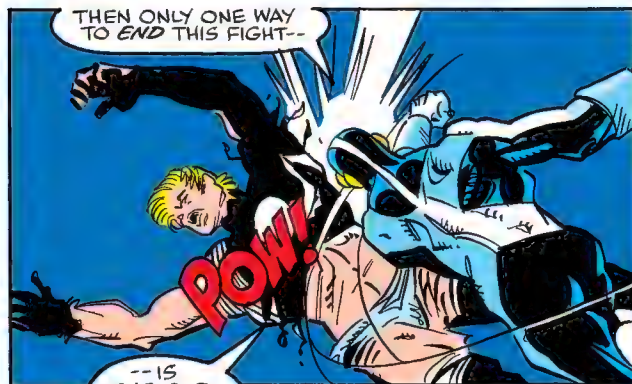
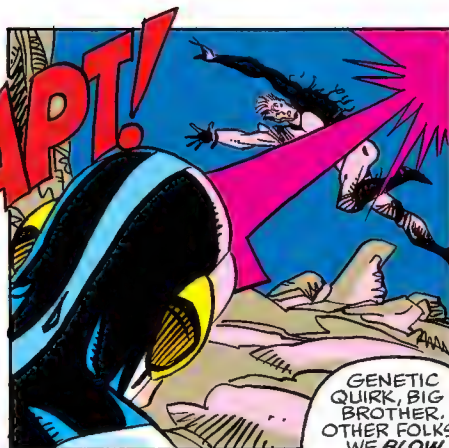
THANK THE NICE MAN FOR CATCHIN' US, DAZZ.

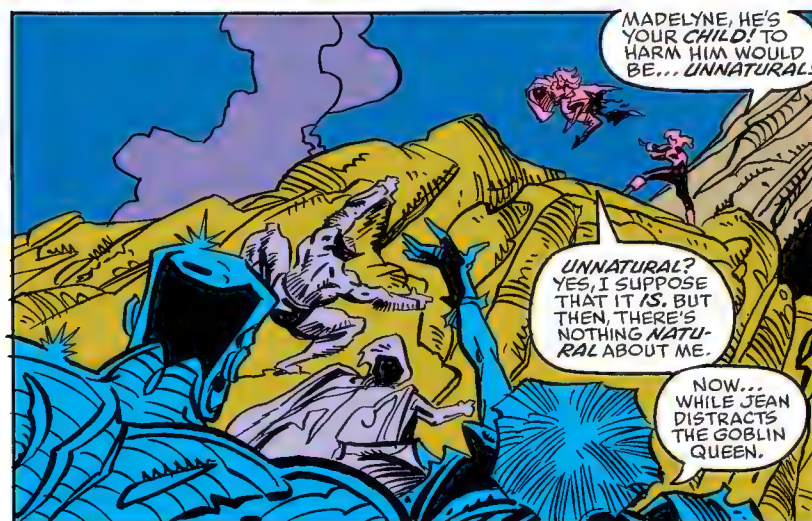
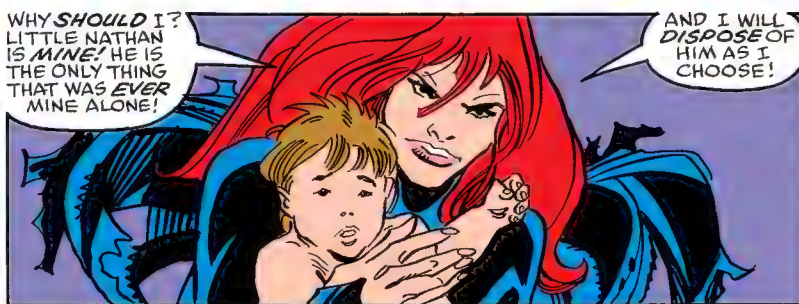
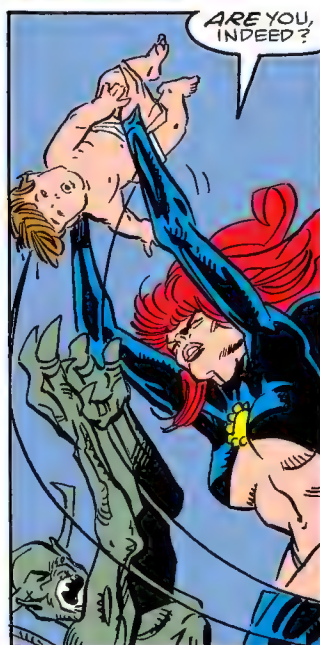
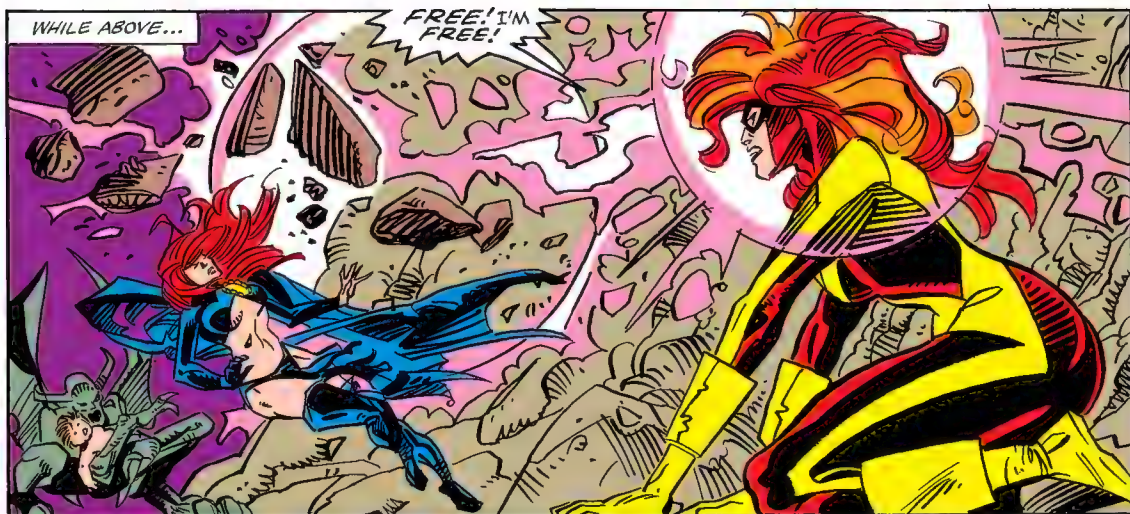
THAT FALL WOULD HURT YOU A LOT MORE THAN IT WOULD ME.

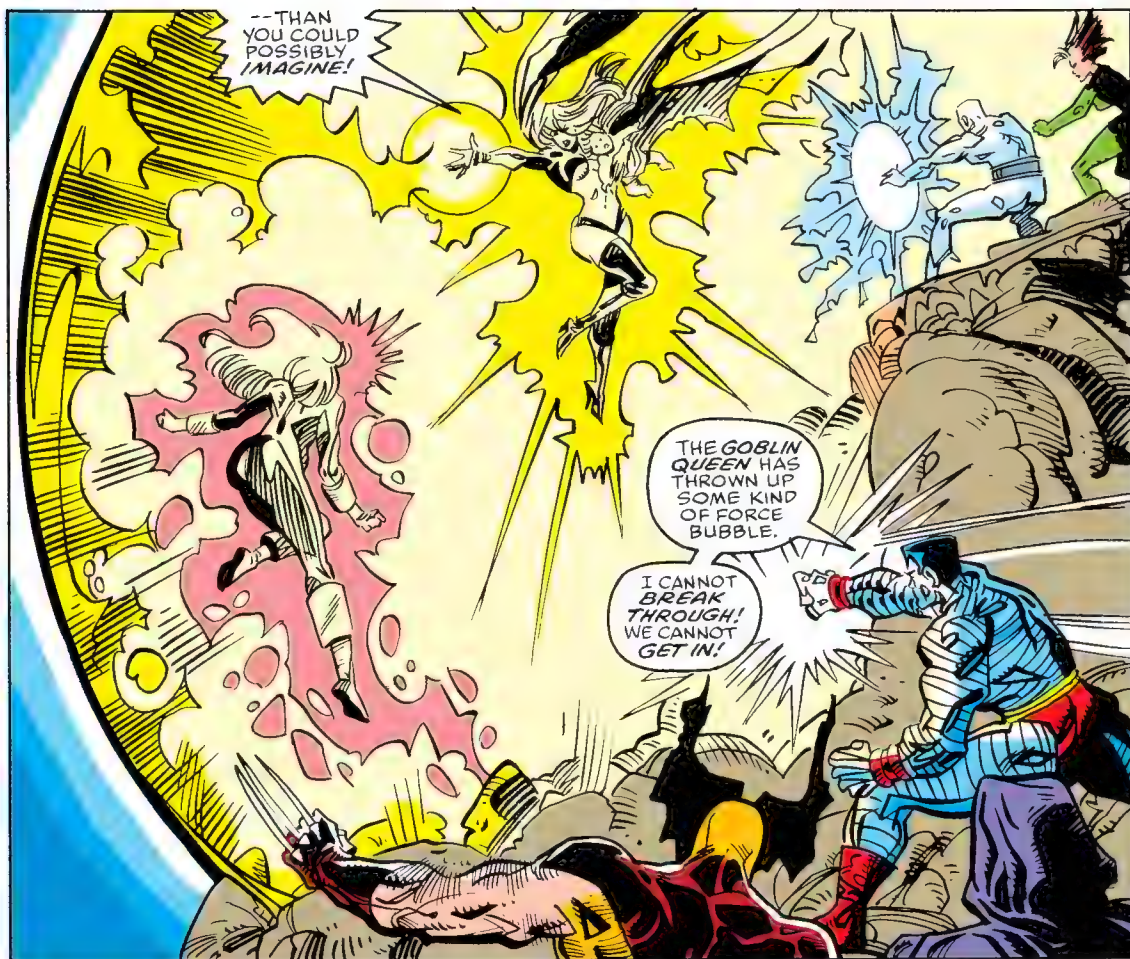


SPINNING 'ROUND SO FAST... CAN'T... BREATHE...

UHHHHHHHHH







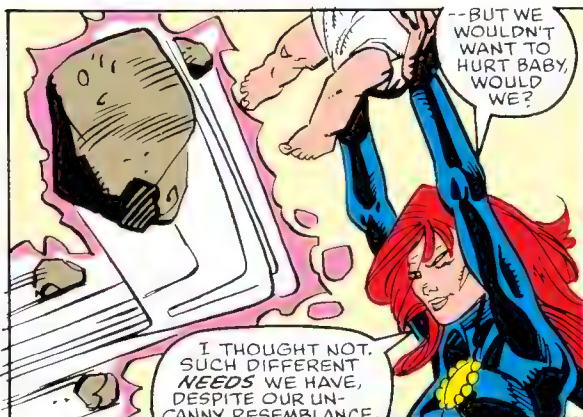
--THAN
YOU COULD
POSSIBLY
IMAGINE!

THE GOBLIN
QUEEN HAS
THROWN UP
SOME KIND
OF FORCE
BUBBLE.

I CANNOT
BREAK
THROUGH!
WE CANNOT
GET IN!

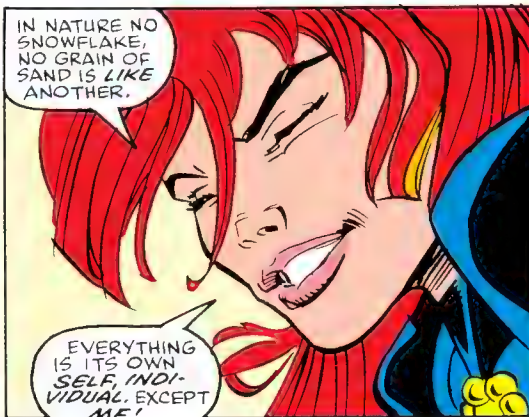


AS A TELE-
KINETIC,
JEAN, YOU'RE
AMAZINGLY
POWERFUL--



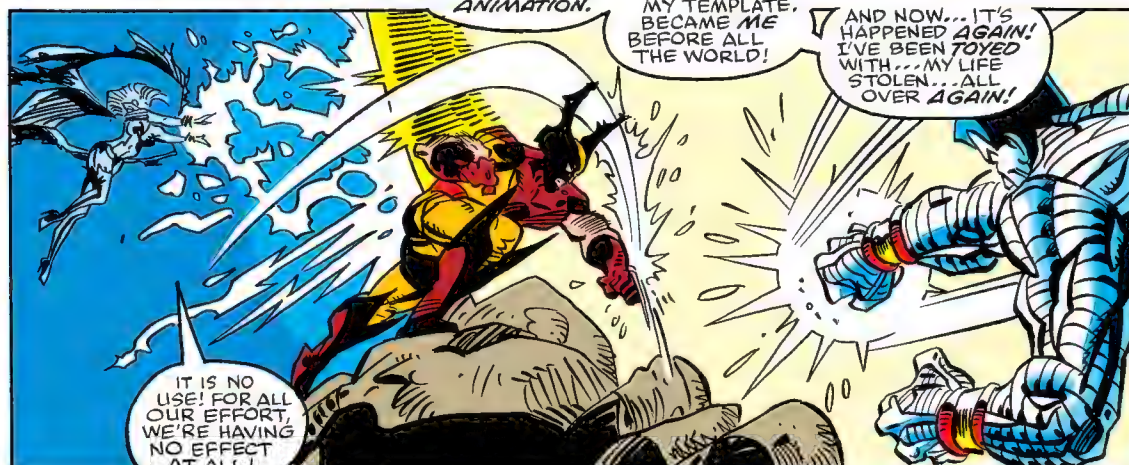
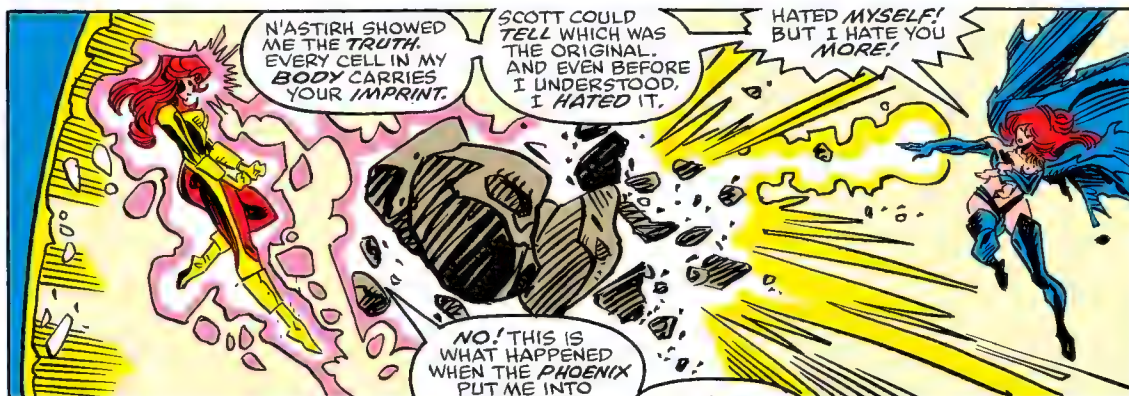
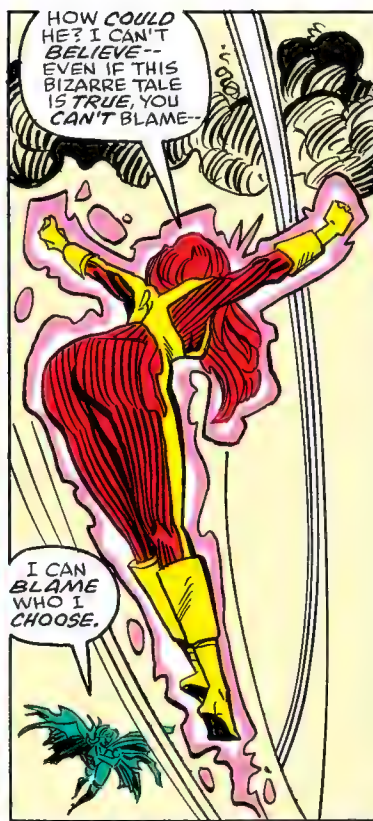
--BUT WE
WOULDN'T
WANT TO
HURT BABY,
WOULD
WE?

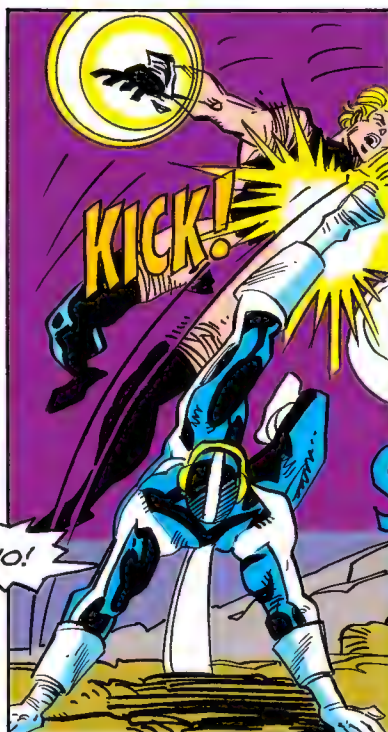
I THOUGHT NOT.
SUCH DIFFERENT
NEEDS WE HAVE,
DESPITE OUR UN-
CANNY RESEMBLANCE.



IN NATURE NO
SNOWFLAKE,
NO GRAIN OF
SAND IS LIKE
ANOTHER.

EVERYTHING
IS ITS OWN
SELF, INDI-
VIDUAL, EXCEPT
ME!



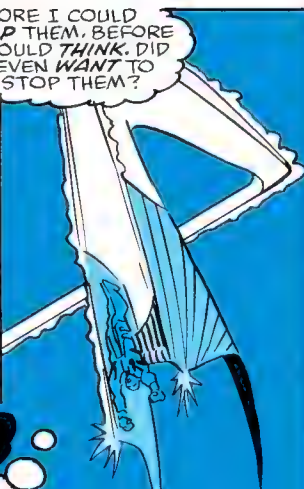




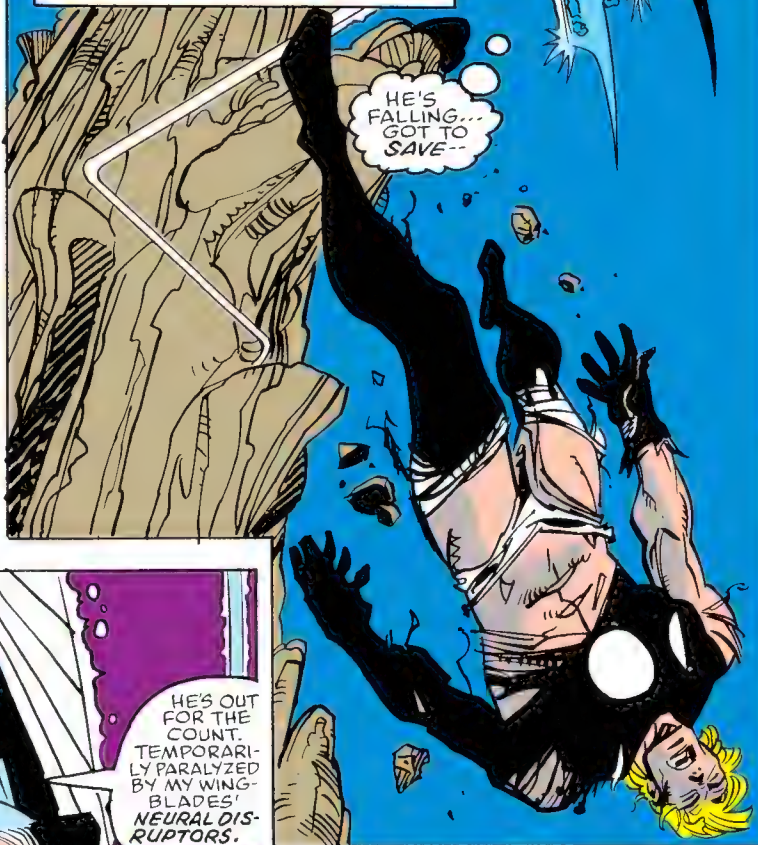
ALEX--SCOTT'S BROTHER! I FIRED... MY WINGS ... MY EVIL WINGS FIRED.



BEFORE I COULD STOP THEM. BEFORE I COULD THINK. DID I EVEN WANT TO STOP THEM?



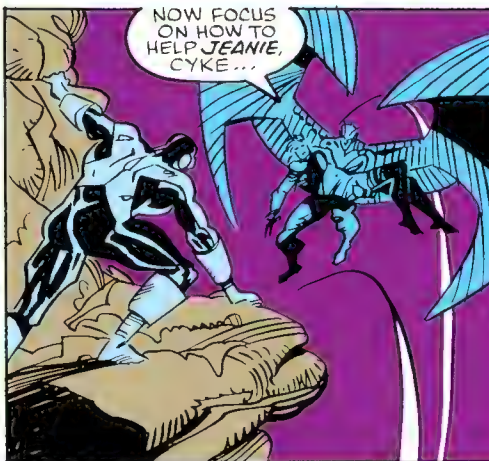
HE'S FALLING... GOT TO SAVE--



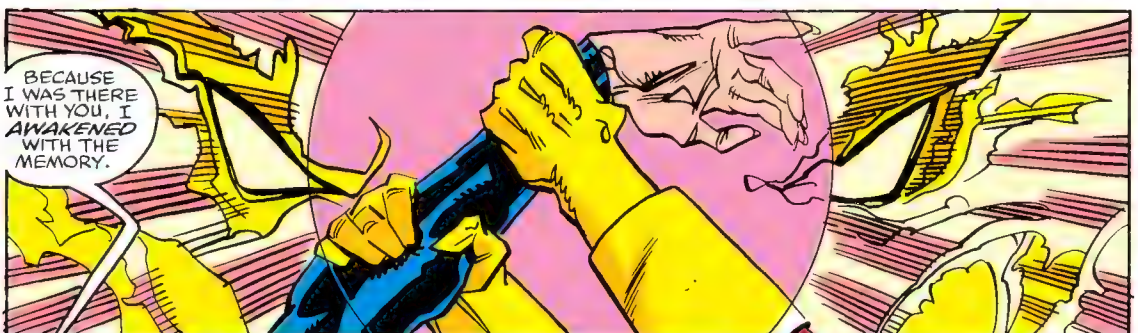
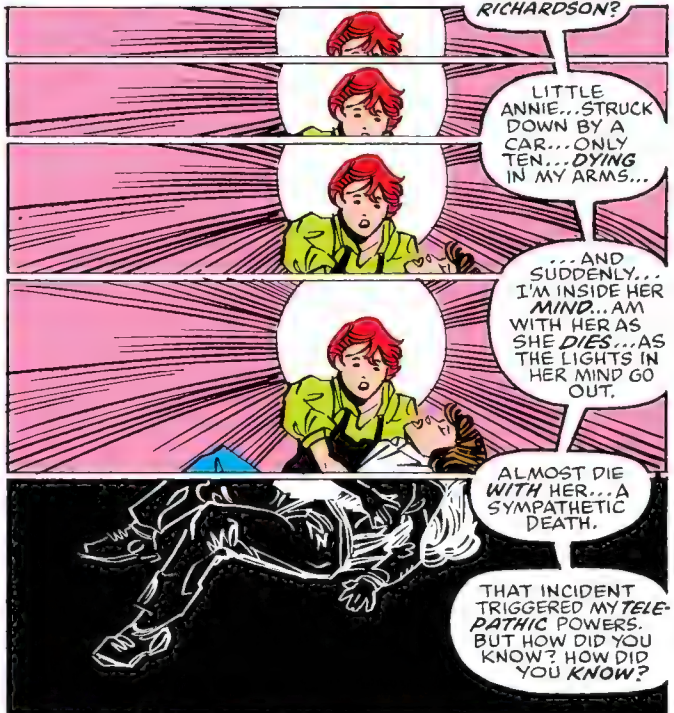
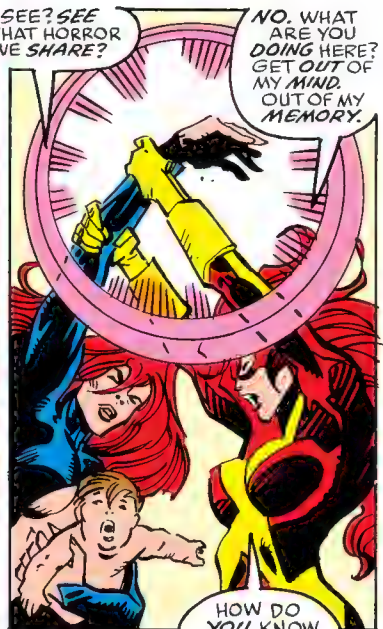
HE'S OUT FOR THE COUNT. TEMPORARILY PARALYZED BY MY WING-BLADES' NEURAL DISRUPTORS.

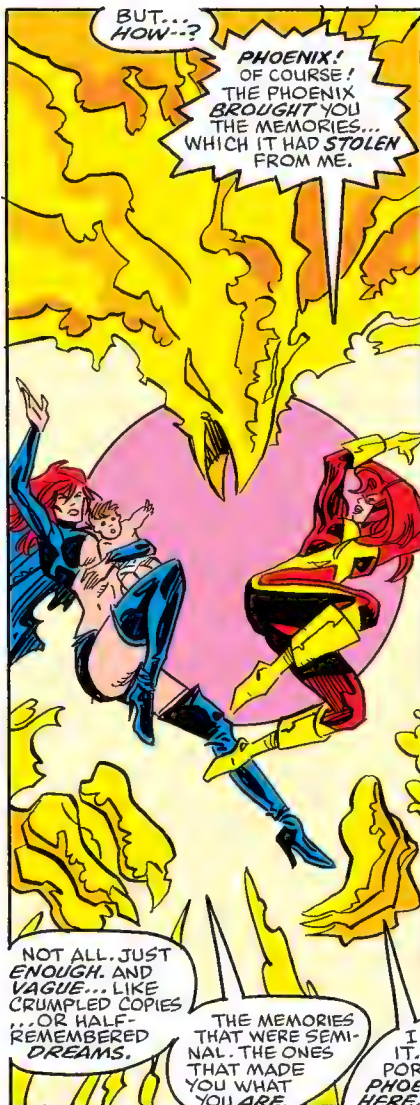


NOW FOCUS ON HOW TO HELP JEANIE, CYKE...



"... 'CAUSE IT LOOKS LIKE SHE *NEEDS* IT."





BUT...
HOW...?

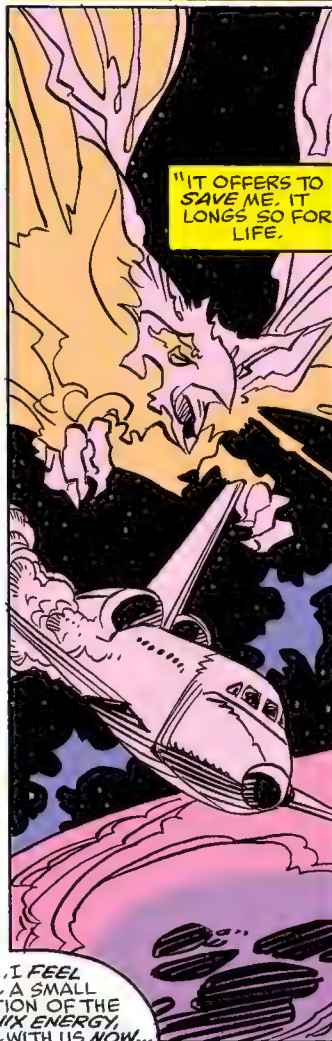
PHOENIX!
OF COURSE!
THE PHOENIX
BROUGHT YOU
THE MEMORIES...
WHICH IT HAD **STOLEN**
FROM ME.

NOT ALL. JUST
ENOUGH. AND
VAGUE... LIKE
CRUMPLED COPIES
...OR HALF-
REMEMBERED
DREAMS.

THE MEMORIES
THAT WERE SEMI-
NAL. THE ONES
THAT MADE
YOU WHAT
YOU ARE.

I... I FEEL
IT... A SMALL
PORTION OF THE
PHOENIX ENERGY,
HERE... WITH US NOW...

"...AS IT WAS WITH ME THEN.
I'M DYING... AND IT COMES TO ME.



"IT OFFERS TO
SAVE ME. IT
LONGS SO FOR
LIFE.

"IT BURIES ME IN A HEALING CO-
COON BENEATH THE SEA. BUT IT
STEALS A PORTION OF MY PSYCHE...



"...DUPLICATES
ME... AND 'BE-
COMES' ME. IT...
NO... IT LOSES
CONTROL OF ITS
POWER... DEVAS-
TATES A PLANET.

"IN HORROR...
PHOENIX DE-
STROYS THE
MORTAL SHELL
IT HAS ASSUMED.



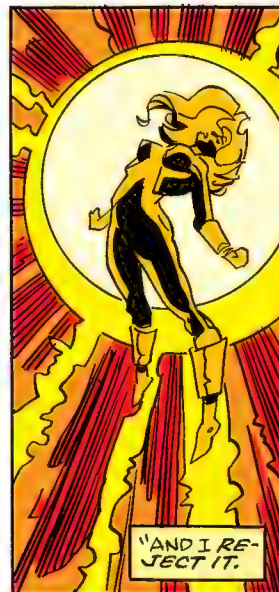
"IT TRIES TO RETURN
THE PORTION OF MY...
SELF THAT IT HAS
STOLEN AWAY.



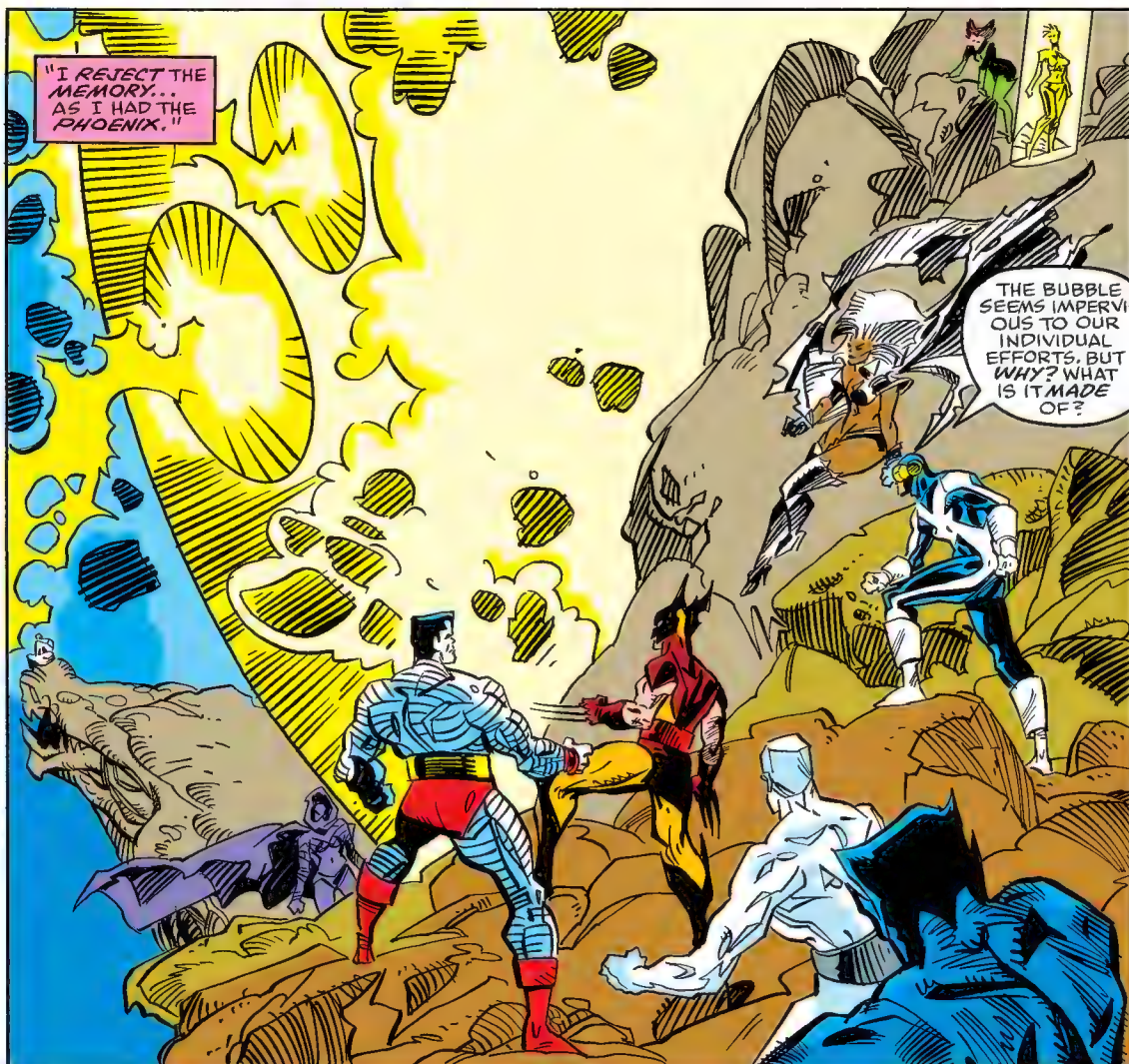
"SENDS IT BACK TO
EARTH, KEYED TO MY
SPECIFIC GENETIC
CODE. INSTRUCTED
TO AWAKEN ME.



"BUT IT ARRIVES WITH
NIGHTMARE VISIONS
OF DESTRUCTION...
HORRIBLE IMAGES OF
THINGS IT HAS DONE
IN MY NAME...



"AND I RE-
JECT IT.



"I REJECT THE MEMORY... AS I HAD THE PHOENIX."

THE BUBBLE SEEMS IMPERVIOUS TO OUR INDIVIDUAL EFFORTS, BUT WHY? WHAT IS IT MADE OF?



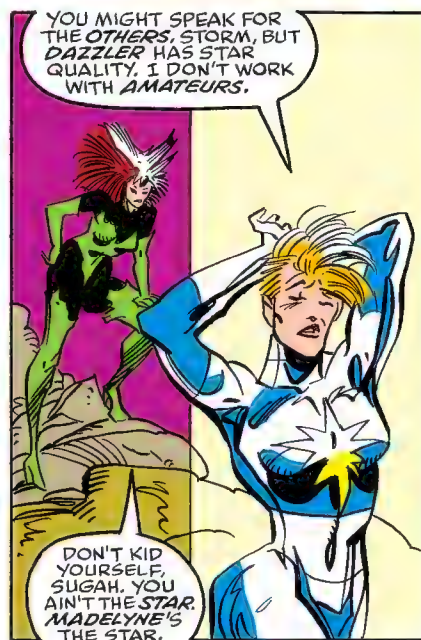
I BELIEVE IT IS TELEKINETIC IN NATURE.



LIKE JEAN'S TELEKINETIC FIELD... ONLY HUNDREDS OF TIMES STRONGER.

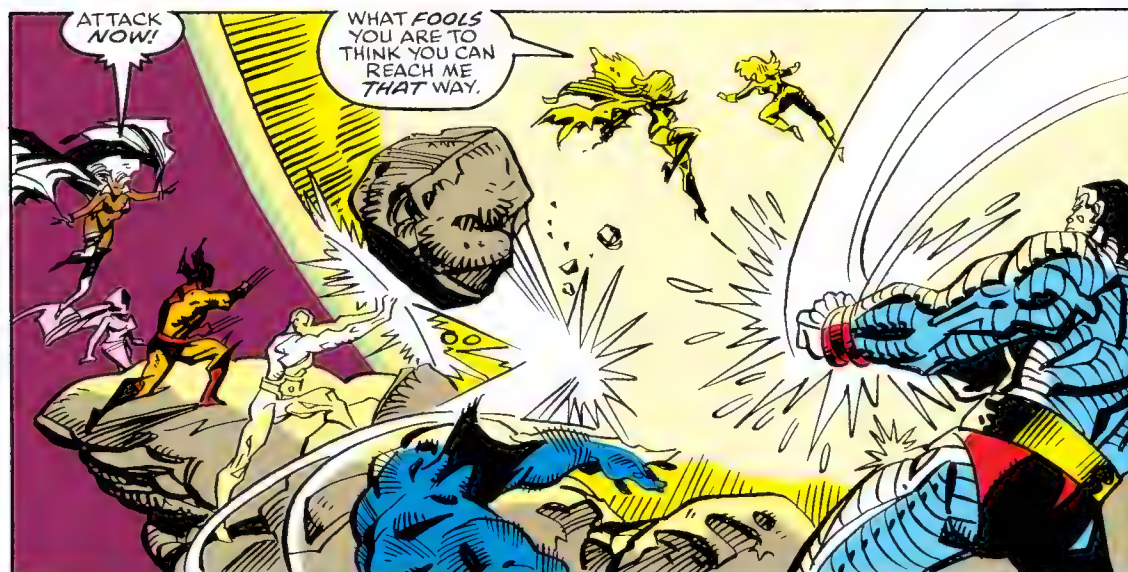
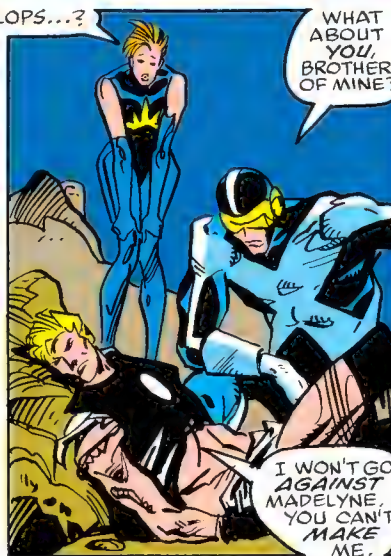
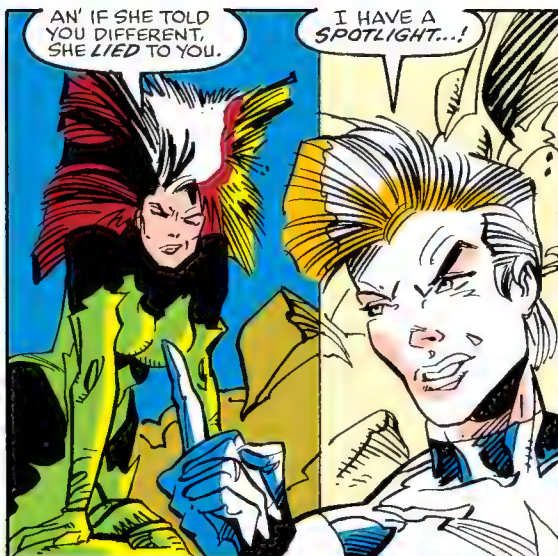
BUT IF WE APPLY PRESSURE EQUALLY AROUND THE BUBBLE... FORCE HER TO STRETCH HER POWERS TO MAINTAIN THAT FIELD...

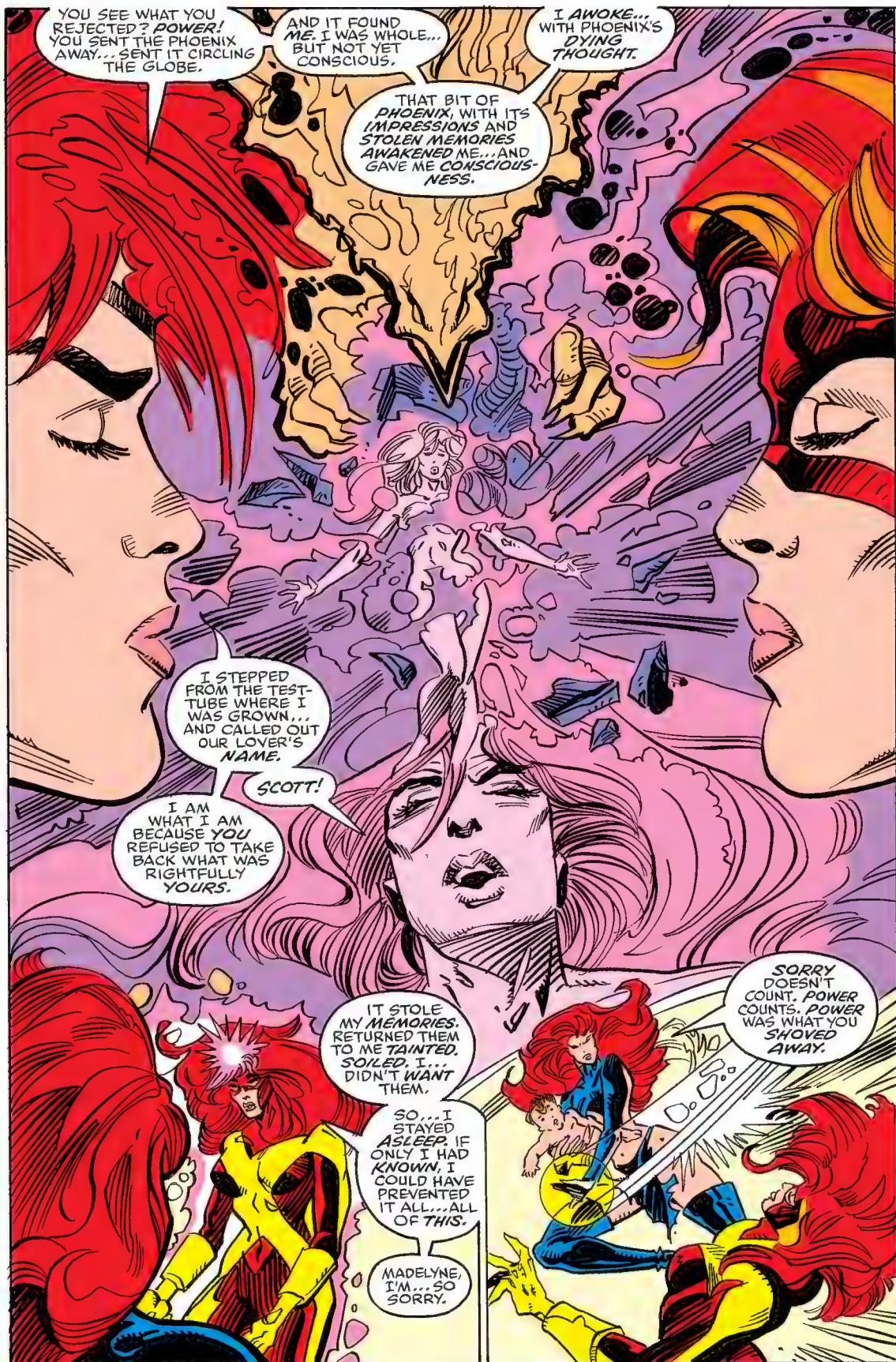
... THEN, YOU, HAVOK, AND DAZZLER USE YOUR POWERS TO THEIR UTMOST AT ONE SPECIFIC POINT, WE MIGHT BREAK THROUGH.

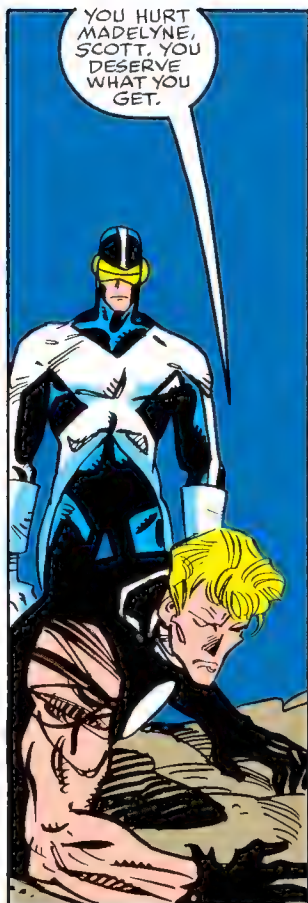


YOU MIGHT SPEAK FOR THE OTHERS, STORM, BUT DAZZLER HAS STAR QUALITY. I DON'T WORK WITH AMATEURS.

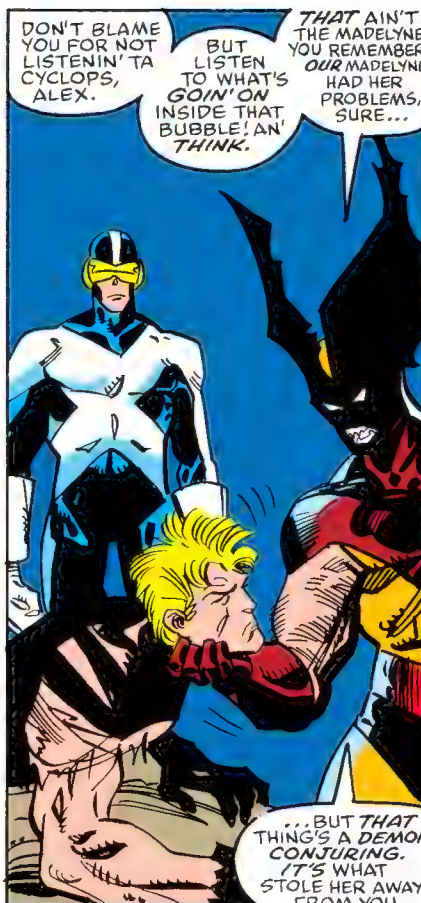
DON'T KID YOURSELF, SUGAH. YOU AIN'T THE STAR. MADELYNE'S THE STAR.







YOU HURT MADELYNE, SCOTT. YOU DESERVE WHAT YOU GET.



DON'T BLAME YOU FOR NOT LISTENIN' TA CYCLOPS, ALEX.

BUT LISTEN TO WHAT'S GOIN' ON INSIDE THAT BUBBLE! AN' THINK.

THAT AIN'T THE MADELYNE YOU REMEMBER. OUR MADELYNE HAD HER PROBLEMS, SURE...

...BUT THAT THING'S A DEMON CONJURING. IT'S WHAT STOLE HER AWAY FROM YOU.



I...REMEMBER. MADELYNE WAS... LOST. HELPLESS. MADE ME...WANT TO SAVE HER. THAT'S WHY...

I KNOW. COME ON.



WHERE'S THE BEST PLACE TO BLAST?

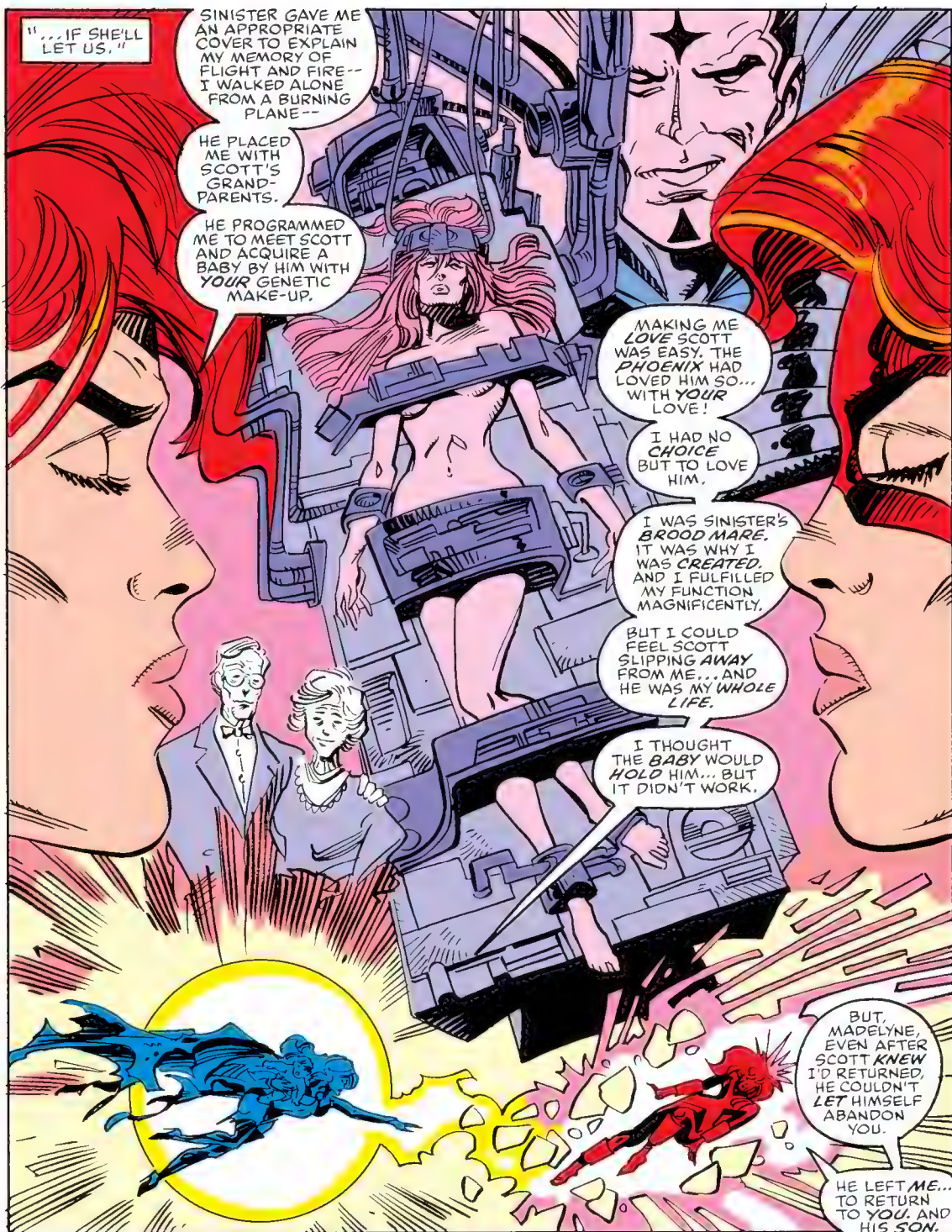
I'LL HELP BREACH THE BUBBLE...FOR MADELYNE'S SAKE.

BUT IT DOESN'T MEAN I APPROVE OF THE WAY YOU TREATED HER.

AND I WON'T HELP YOU DESTROY HER.

I...CAN'T BLAME YOU. I DON'T APPROVE MYSELF. I'M AFRAID... I MAY HAVE DESTROYED HER, ALREADY.

BUT I PROMISE YOU, ALEX, WE'LL SAVE HER...



"...IF SHE'LL LET US."

SINISTER GAVE ME AN APPROPRIATE COVER TO EXPLAIN MY MEMORY OF FLIGHT AND FIRE-- I WALKED ALONE FROM A BURNING PLANE--

HE PLACED ME WITH SCOTT'S GRAND-PARENTS.

HE PROGRAMMED ME TO MEET SCOTT AND ACQUIRE A BABY BY HIM WITH YOUR GENETIC MAKE-UP.

MAKING ME LOVE SCOTT WAS EASY. THE PHOENIX HAD LOVED HIM SO... WITH YOUR LOVE!

I HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO LOVE HIM.

I WAS SINISTER'S BROOD MARE. IT WAS WHY I WAS CREATED. AND I FULFILLED MY FUNCTION MAGNIFICENTLY.

BUT I COULD FEEL SCOTT SLIPPING AWAY FROM ME...AND HE WAS MY WHOLE LIFE.

I THOUGHT THE BABY WOULD HOLD HIM... BUT IT DIDN'T WORK.

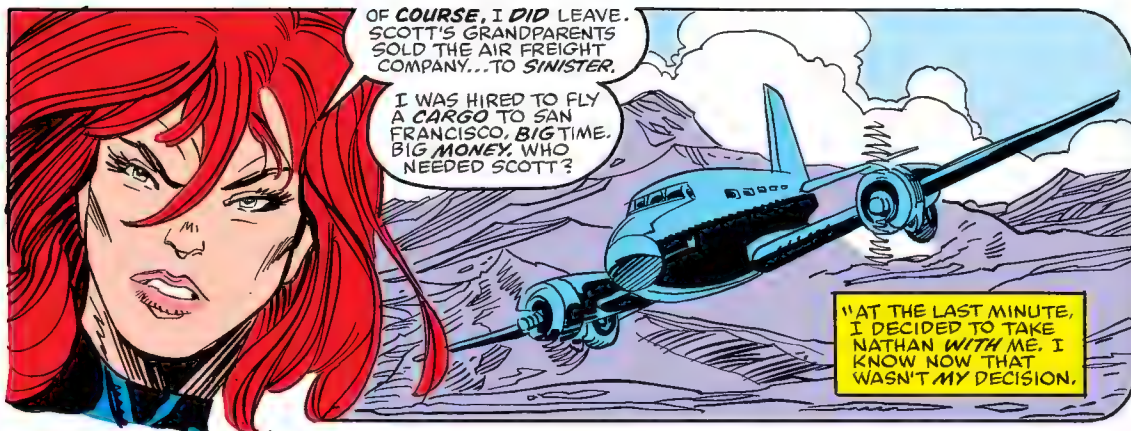
BUT, MADELYNE, EVEN AFTER SCOTT KNEW I'D RETURNED, HE COULDN'T LET HIMSELF ABANDON YOU.

HE LEFT ME... TO RETURN TO YOU, AND HIS SON.

BUT BY THEN YOU WERE GONE. ALL EVIDENCE THAT YOU HAD EXISTED WAS WIPE OUT... EXCEPT A BABY'S RATTLE.

SINISTER HAS ALWAYS BEEN VERY THOROUGH.

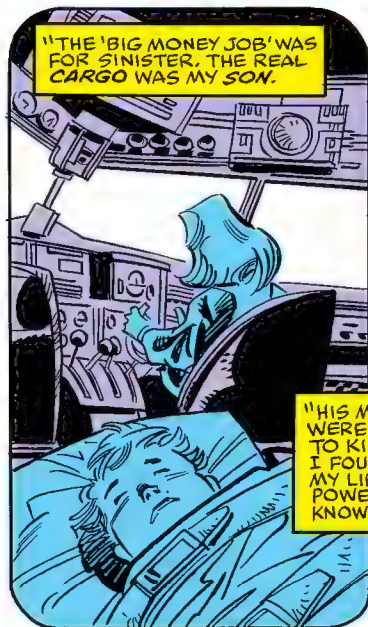
HE TRIED TO ERASE ALL RECORD OF MY EXISTENCE.



OF COURSE, I DID LEAVE. SCOTT'S GRANDPARENTS SOLD THE AIR FREIGHT COMPANY...TO SINISTER.

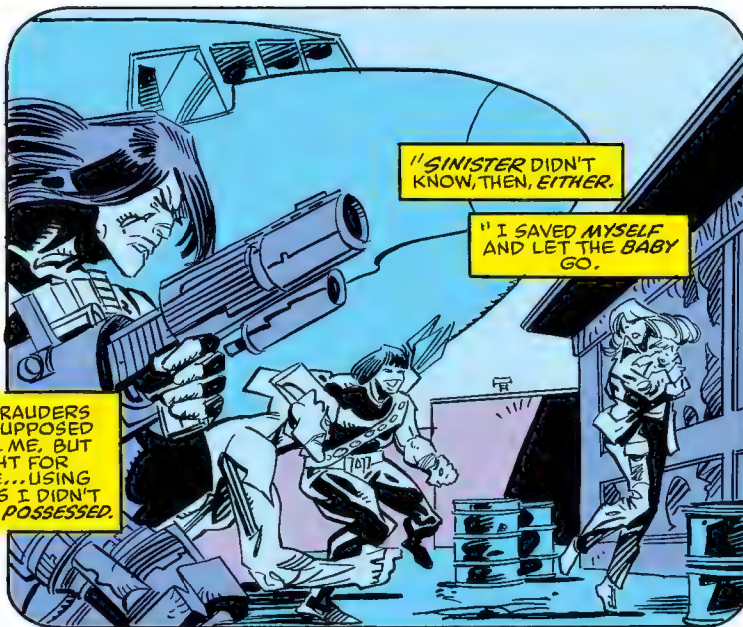
I WAS HIRED TO FLY A CARGO TO SAN FRANCISCO. BIG TIME. BIG MONEY. WHO NEEDED SCOTT?

"AT THE LAST MINUTE, I DECIDED TO TAKE NATHAN WITH ME. I KNOW NOW THAT WASN'T MY DECISION."



"THE 'BIG MONEY JOB' WAS FOR SINISTER. THE REAL CARGO WAS MY SON."

"HIS MARAUDERS WERE SUPPOSED TO KILL ME, BUT I FOUGHT FOR MY LIFE...USING POWERS I DIDN'T KNOW I POSSESSED."



"SINISTER DIDN'T KNOW, THEN, EITHER."

"I SAVED MYSELF AND LET THE BABY GO."



"THE X-MEN FOUND ME... AND I WENT WITH THEM. WHERE ELSE WAS I TO GO?"

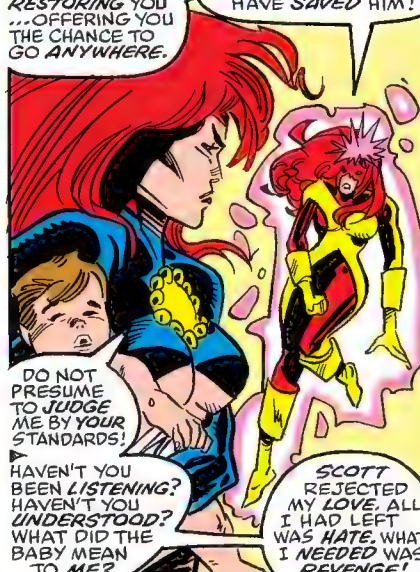


"I FOLLOWED THEM, DID WHAT THEY DID, EVEN SACRIFICED MY LIFE WITH THEM."

"BELIEVE ME, IT WAS NOTHING."

THE MEMORY... IT'S THERE, THE GODDESS ROMA RESTORING YOU...OFFERING YOU THE CHANCE TO GO ANYWHERE.

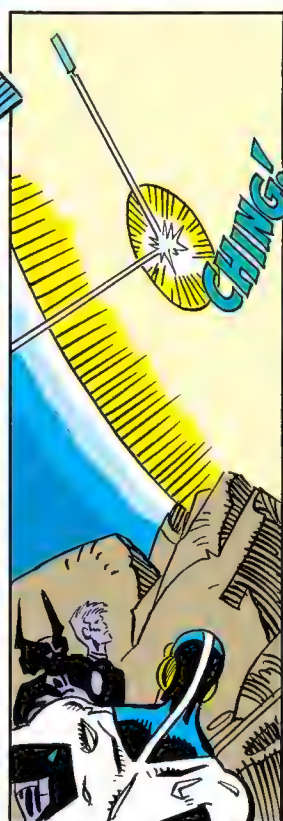
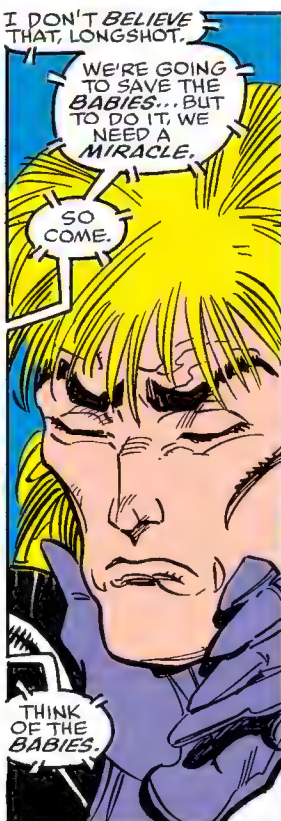
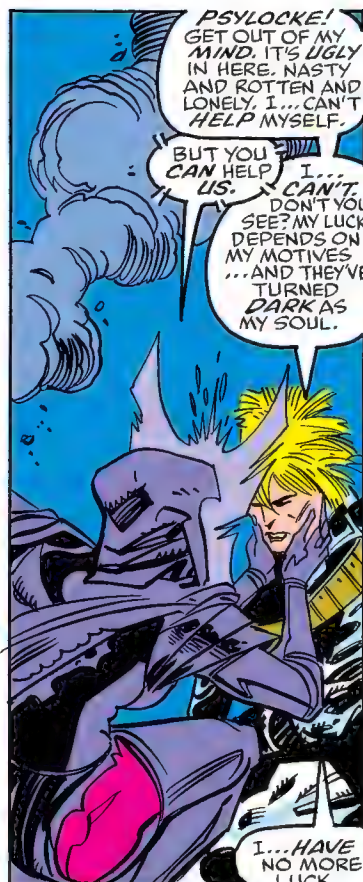
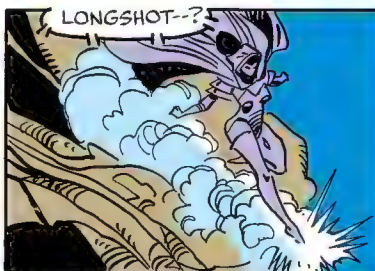
SHE COULD HAVE TRANSPORTED YOU TO YOUR SON. YOU COULD HAVE SAVED HIM!

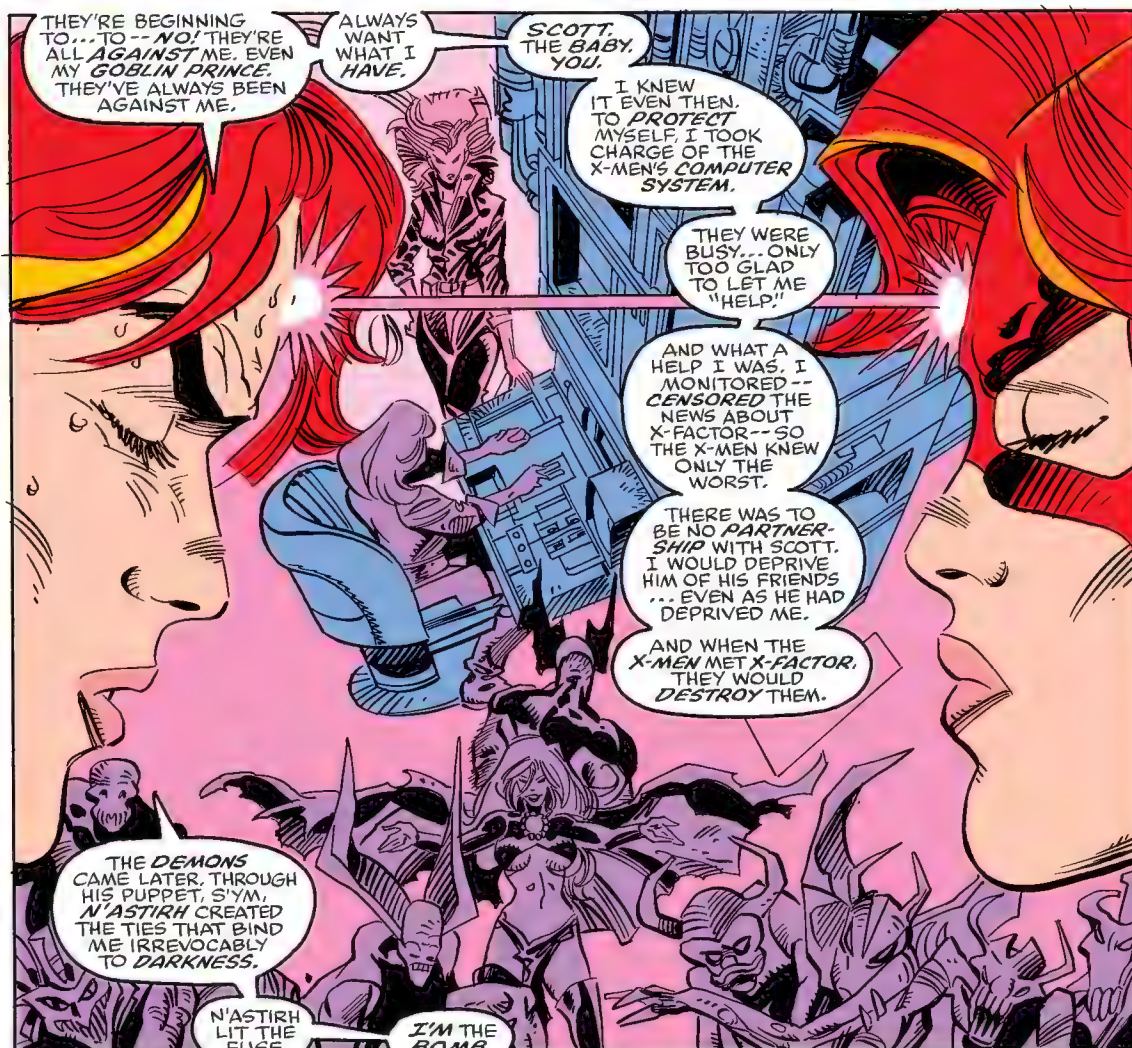
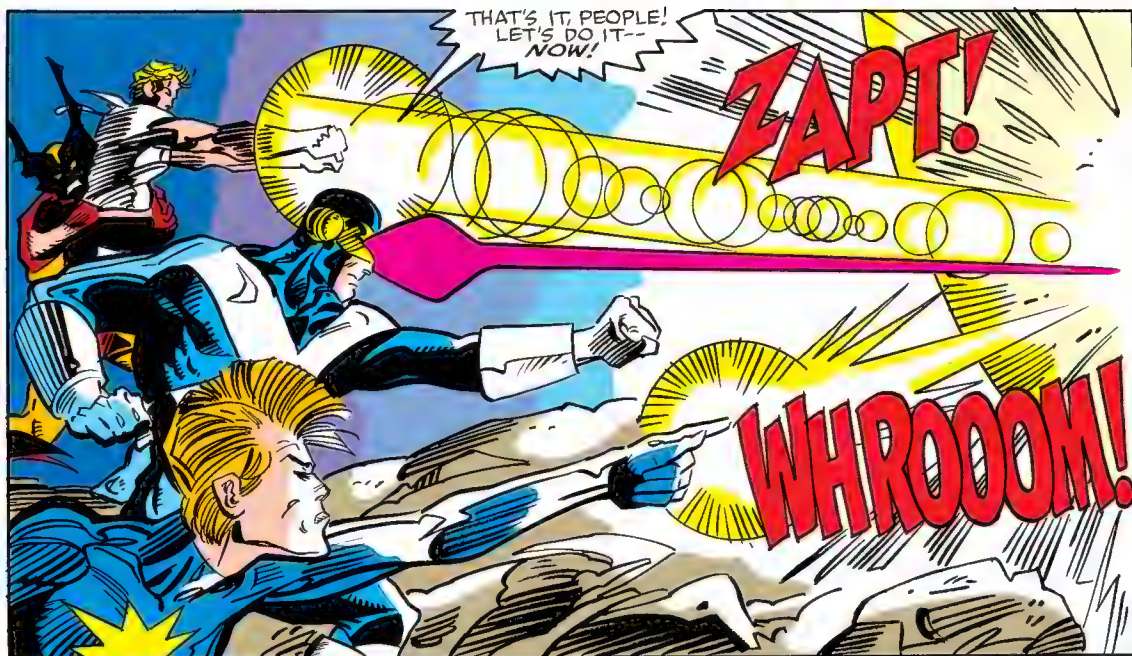


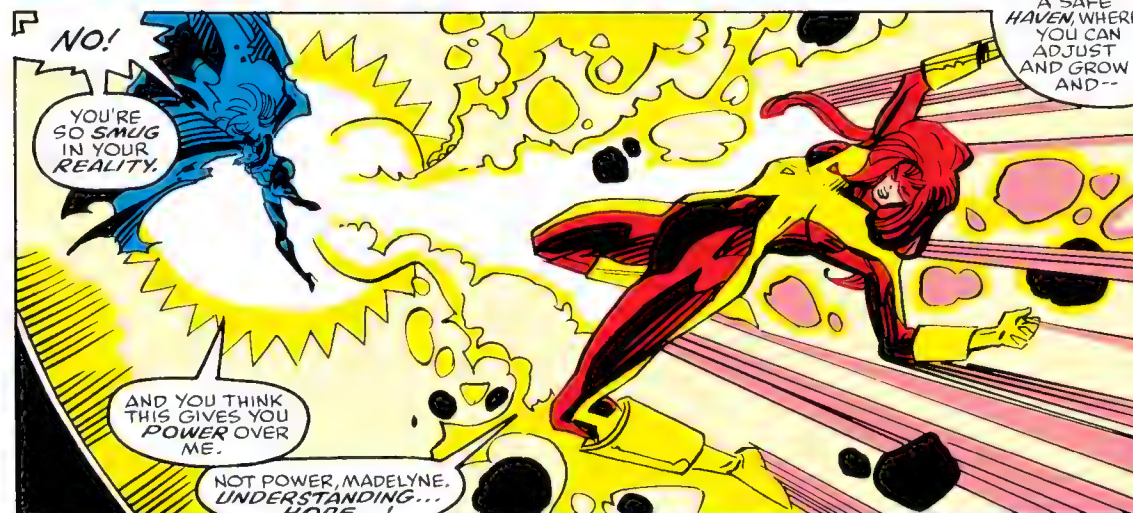
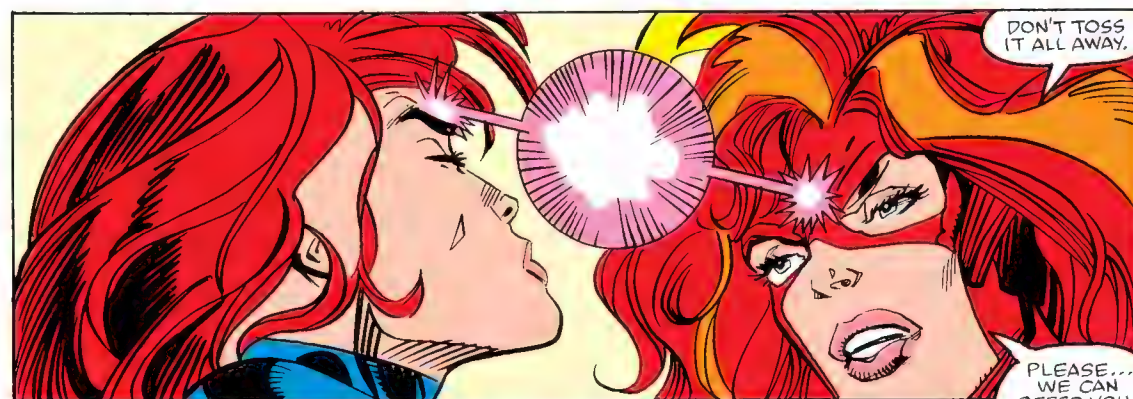
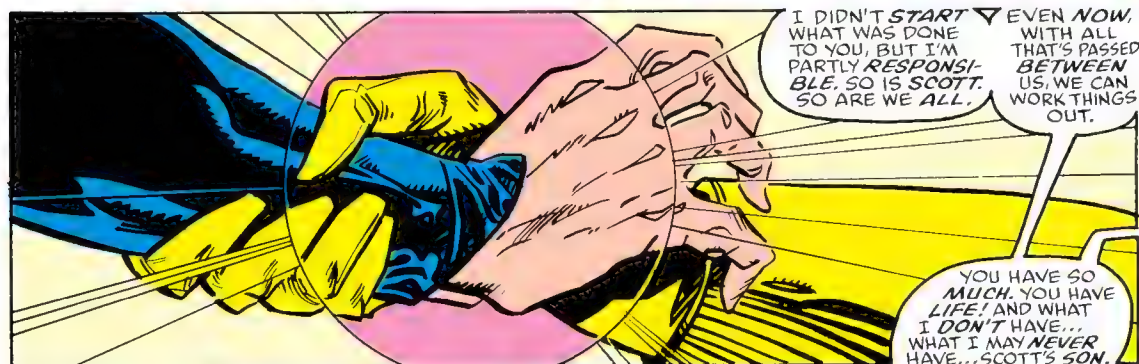
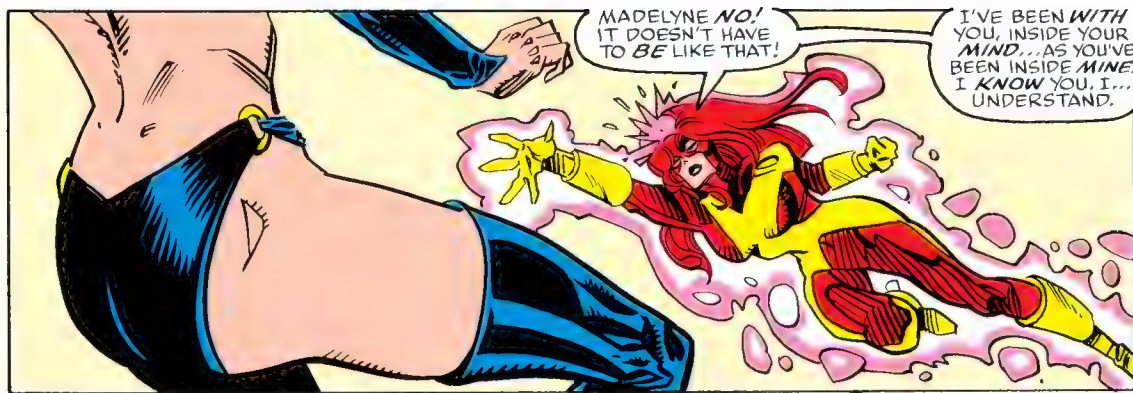
DO NOT PRESUME TO JUDGE ME BY YOUR STANDARDS!

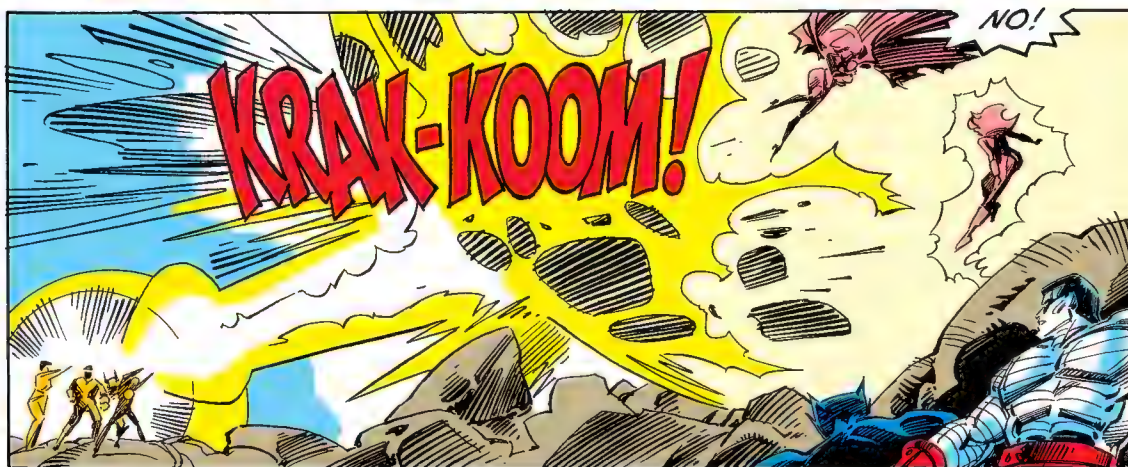
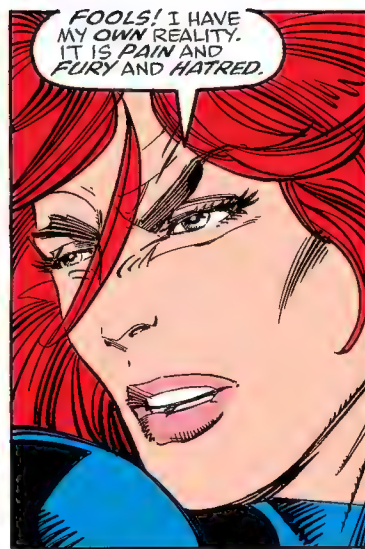
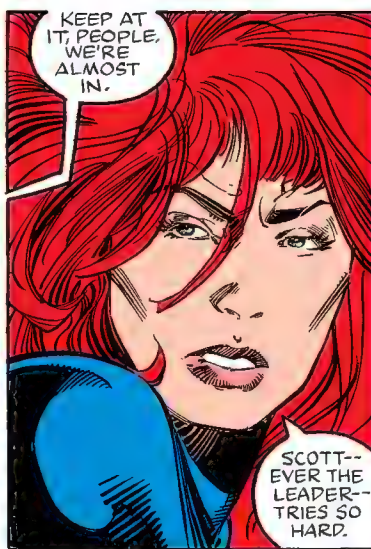
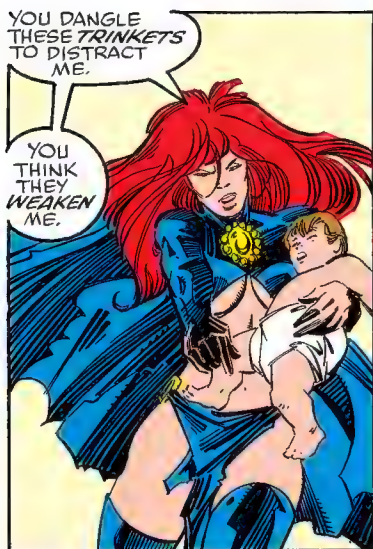
HAVEN'T YOU BEEN LISTENING? HAVEN'T YOU UNDERSTOOD? WHAT DID THE BABY MEAN TO ME?

SCOTT REJECTED MY LOVE. ALL I HAD LEFT WAS HATE. WHAT I NEEDED WAS REVENGE!











--SAVE
THE
BABY?

THE
TARGET,
THE PRIZE,
THE LITTLE
CLAY
PIGEON...



...IN
THIS
SKEET
SHOOT!



NO!



YAAARGH!



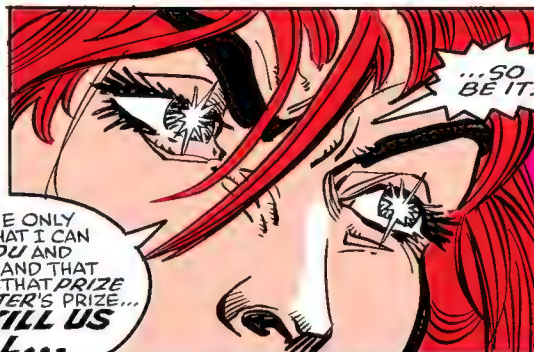
NO!

SCOTT!

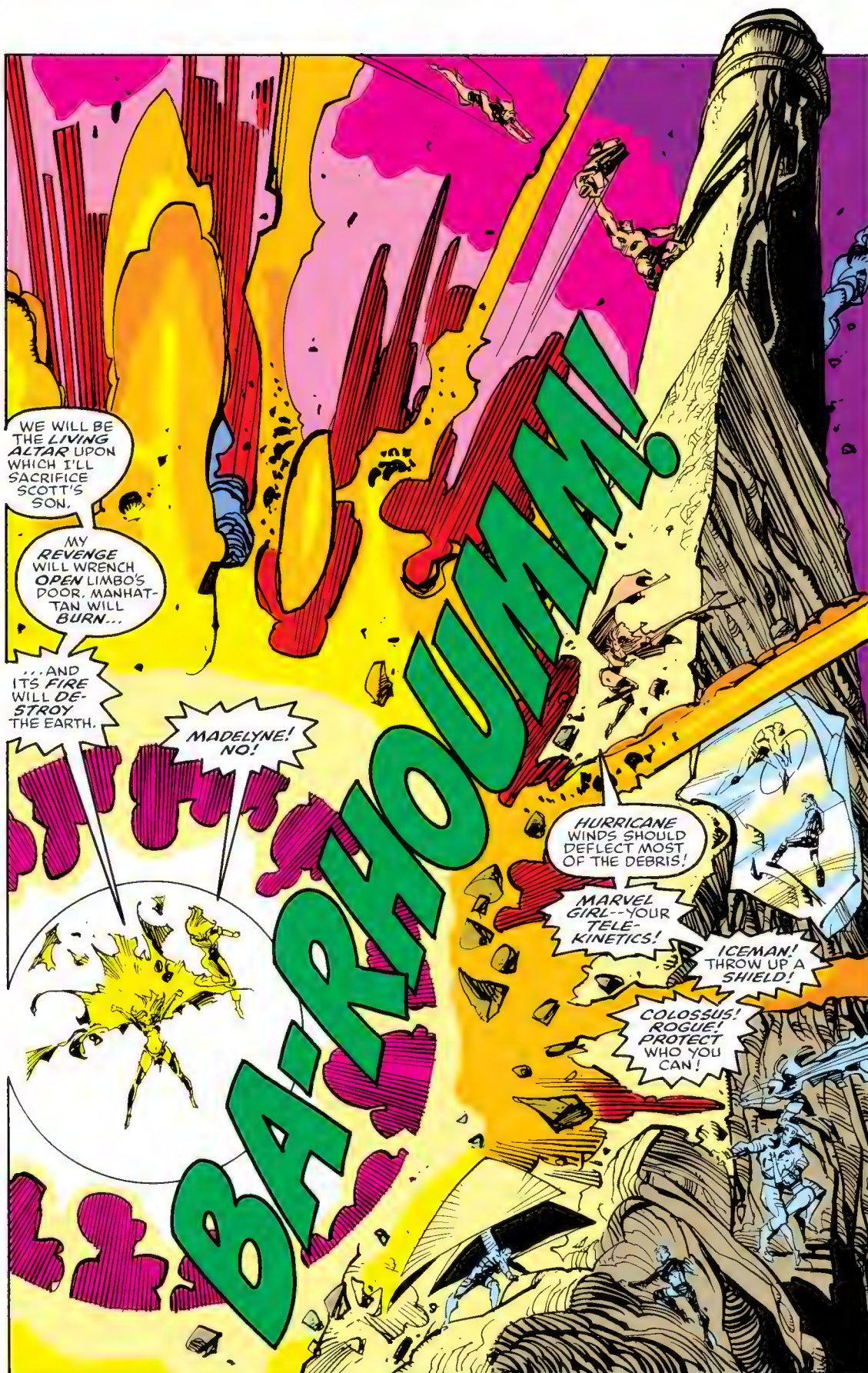
MADELYNE,
PLEASE,
YOU'VE HAD
YOUR REVENGE.

HAVE
I--?

IF THE ONLY
WAY THAT I CAN
KILL YOU AND
SCOTT AND THAT
BABY... THAT PRIZE
... SINISTER'S PRIZE...
IS TO **KILL US**
ALL...



...SO
BE IT!



WE WILL BE
THE **LIVING**
ALTAR UPON
WHICH I'LL
SACRIFICE
SCOTT'S
SON.

MY
REVENGE
WILL WRENCH
OPEN LIMBO'S
DOOR. MANHAT-
TAN WILL
BURN...

...AND
IT'S FIRE
WILL DE-
STROY
THE EARTH.

MADELYNE!
NO!

HURRICANE
WINDS SHOULD
DEFLECT MOST
OF THE DEBRIS!

MARVEL
GIRL--YOUR
TELE-
KINETICS!

ICEMAN!
THROW UP A
SHIELD!

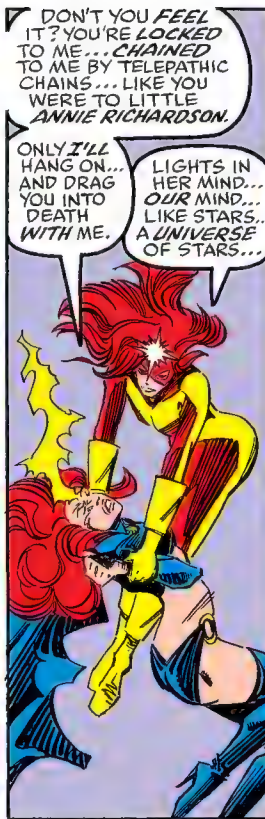
COLOSSUS!
ROGUE!
PROTECT
WHO YOU
CAN!



BLAST SHOULD HAVE KILLED THE CHILD, DESTROYED **US** ALL.

X-MEN PROTECT EACH OTHER. WE WORK TOGETHER.

DO YOU? THEN LET THEM **PROTECT YOU** ...FROM **THIS!**



DON'T YOU **FEEL** IT? YOU'RE **LOCKED** TO ME... **CHAINED** TO ME BY TELEPATHIC CHAINS... LIKE YOU WERE TO LITTLE **ANNIE RICHARDSON**.

ONLY I'LL HANG ON... AND DRAG YOU INTO DEATH WITH ME.

LIGHTS IN HER MIND... **OUR MIND**... LIKE STARS... A **UNIVERSE** OF STARS...



...TWINKLING SYNAPSES... WINK OUT... ONE BY ONE... TILL DARKNESS **SWALLOWS** US...

MADELYNE, DON'T DO THIS! LIVE! PLEASE!!

NOT IN THE SAME WORLD AS YOU.

NO! SHE'S GONE-- AND I'M FOLLOWING HER...

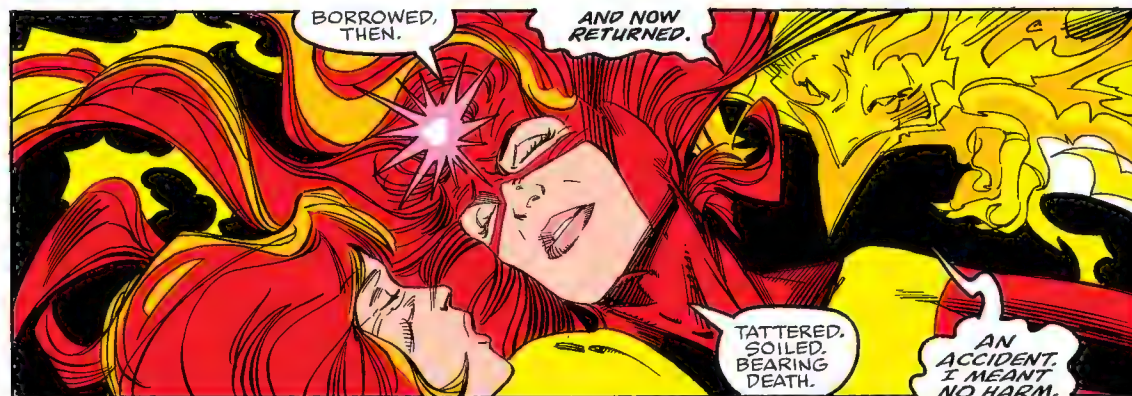


NO! IN THE DARK, A BIRD OF **FIRE!** BEAUTIFUL... DEADLY, UNDYING.

FREE!

PHOENIX!? NO, NOT PHOENIX. ONLY THE PIECE OF ME THAT PHOENIX **STOLE**...

NOT STOLE, BORROWED.

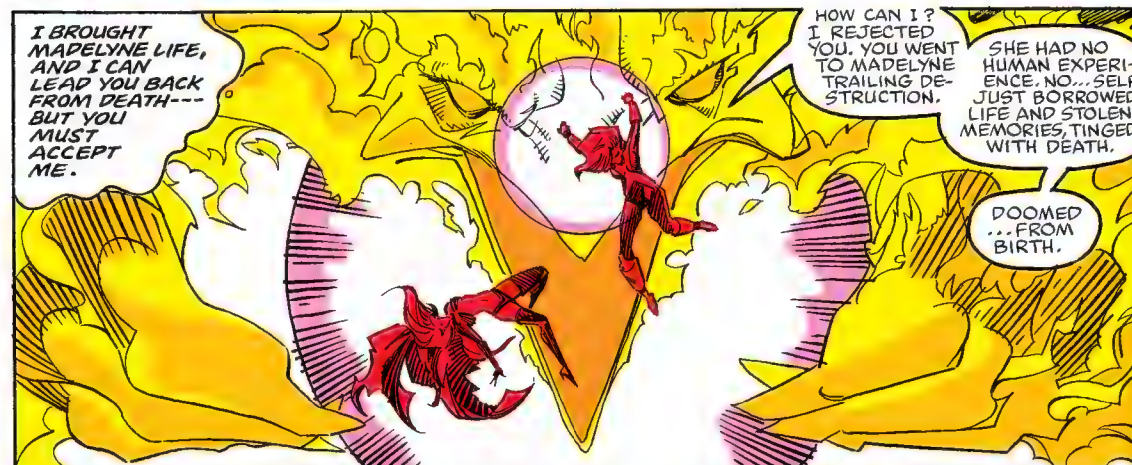


BORROWED, THEN.

AND NOW **RETURNED.**

TATTERED. SOILED. BEARING DEATH.

AN ACCIDENT. I MEANT **NO HARM.**

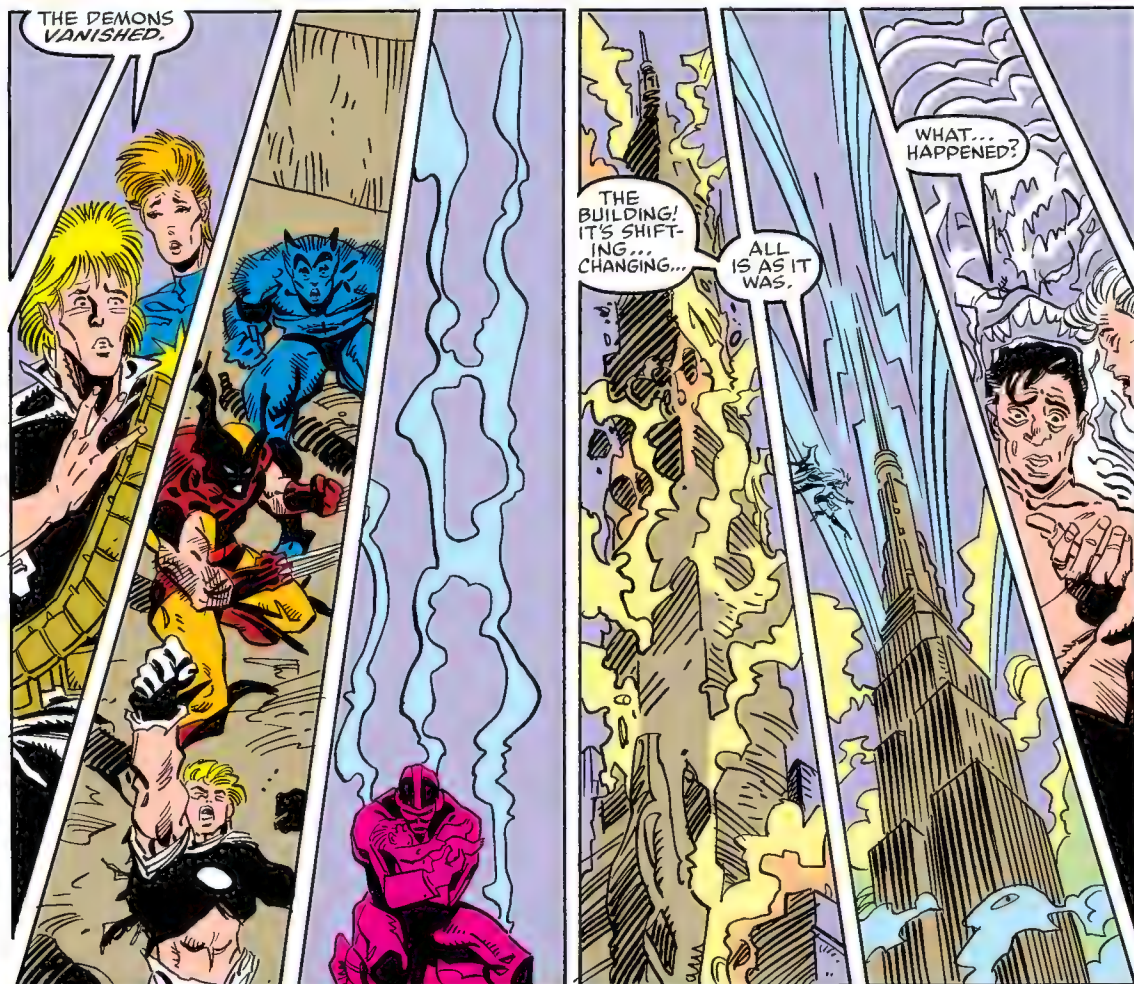
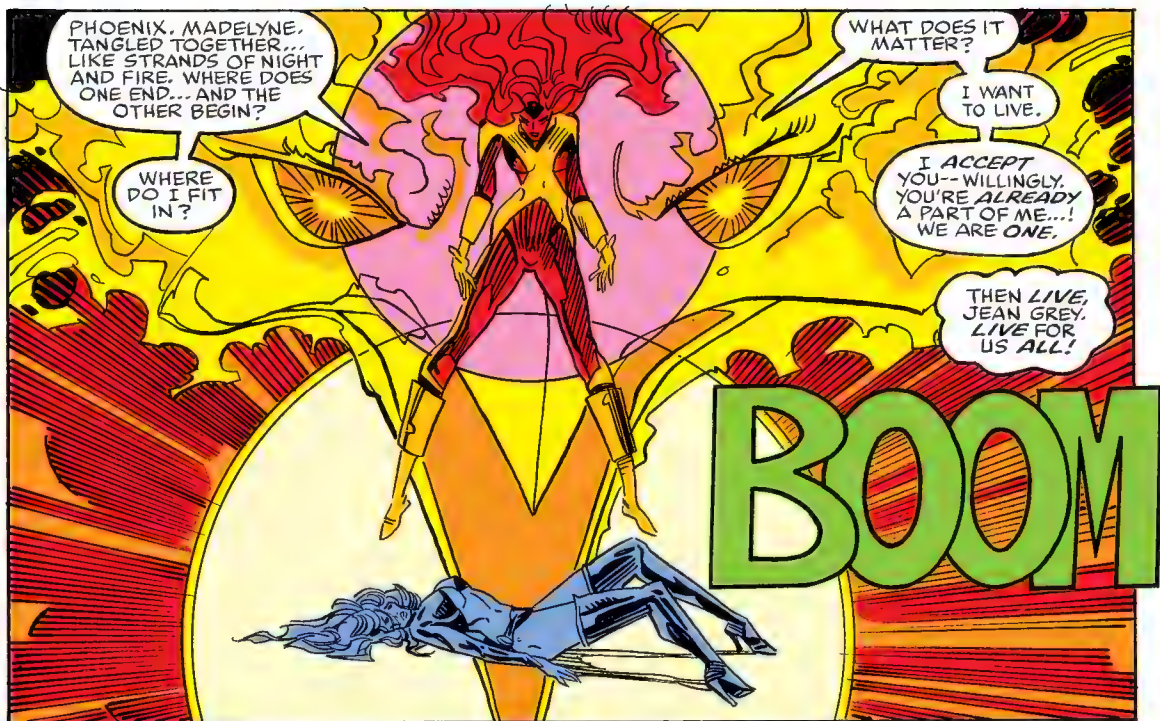


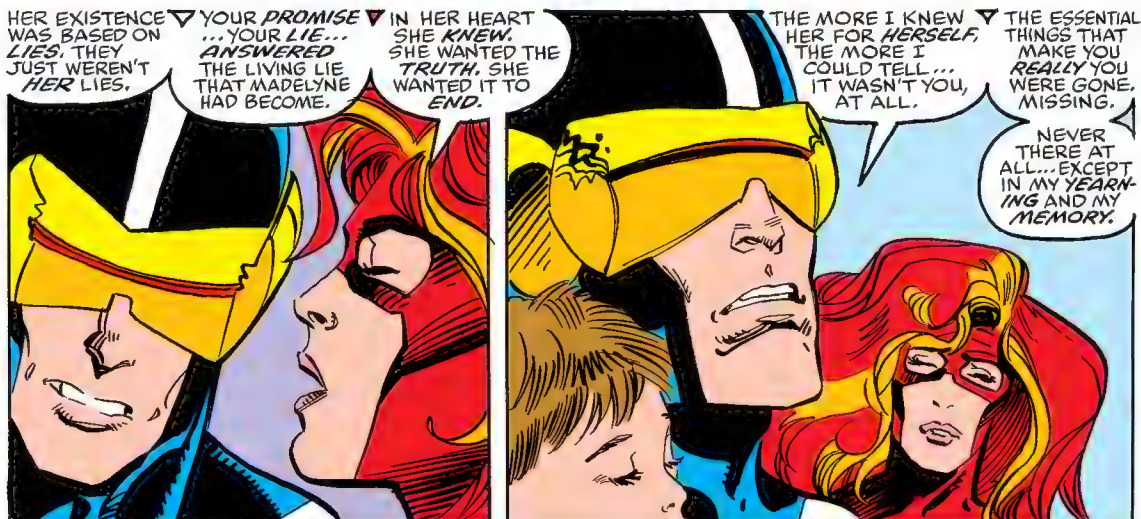
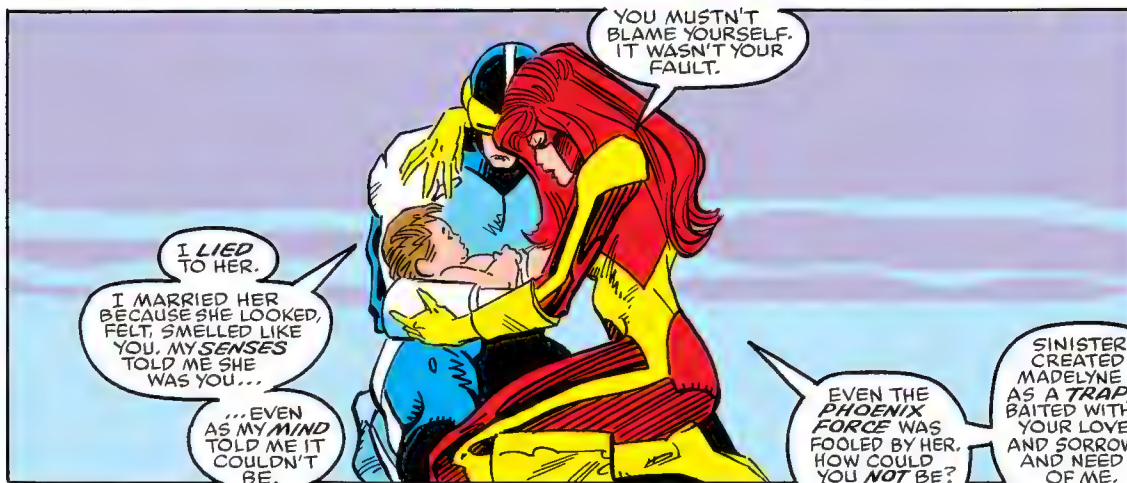
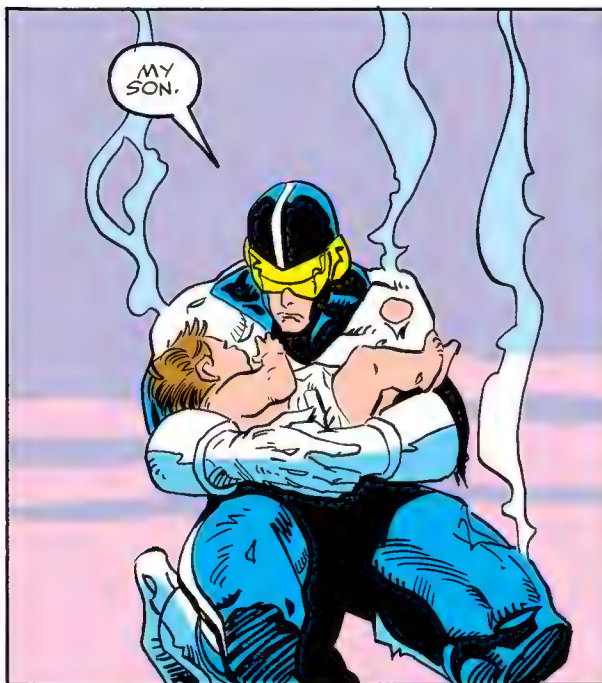
I BROUGHT **MADELYNE** LIFE, AND I CAN LEAD YOU **BACK FROM DEATH---** BUT YOU **MUST ACCEPT ME.**

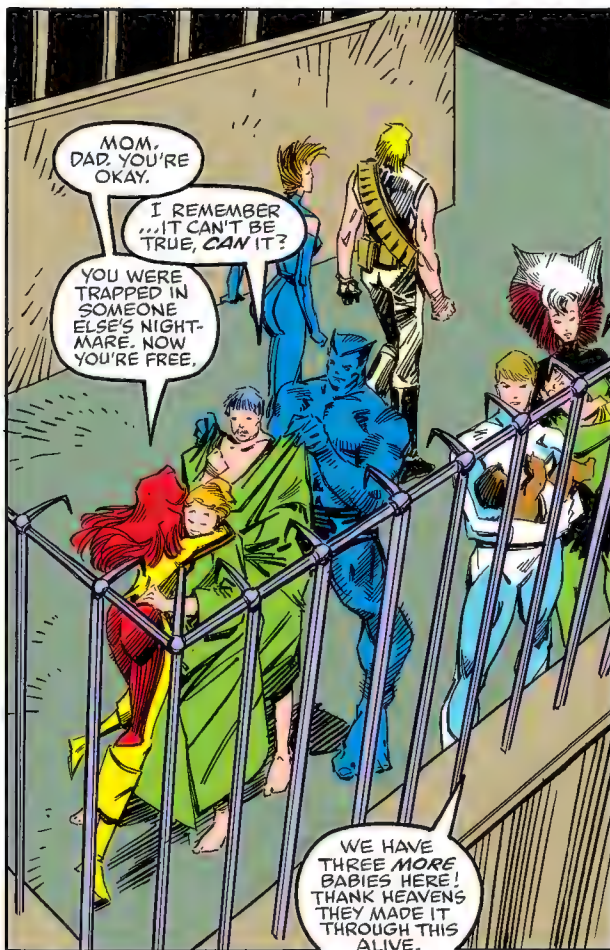
HOW CAN I? I REJECTED YOU. YOU WENT TO **MADELYNE** TRAILING DESTRUCTION.

SHE HAD NO **HUMAN EXPERIENCE**. NO... SELF. JUST **BORROWED** LIFE AND **STOLEN** MEMORIES, TINGED WITH DEATH.

DOOMED ...FROM **BIRTH.**





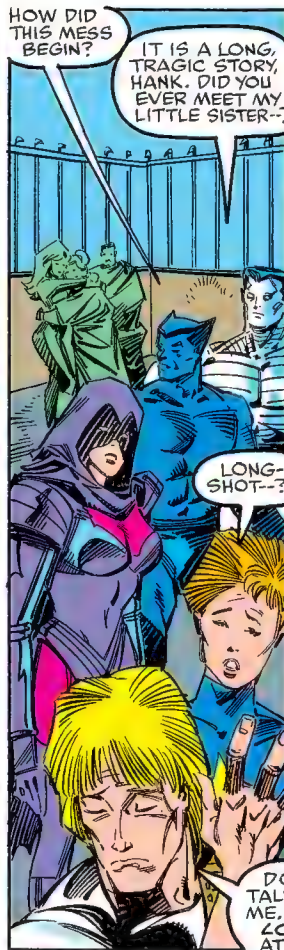


MOM,
DAD, YOU'RE
OKAY.

I REMEMBER
...IT CAN'T BE
TRUE, CAN IT?

YOU WERE
TRAPPED IN
SOMEONE
ELSE'S NIGHT-
MARE. NOW
YOU'RE FREE.

WE HAVE
THREE MORE
BABIES HERE!
THANK HEAVENS
THEY MADE IT
THROUGH THIS
ALIVE.

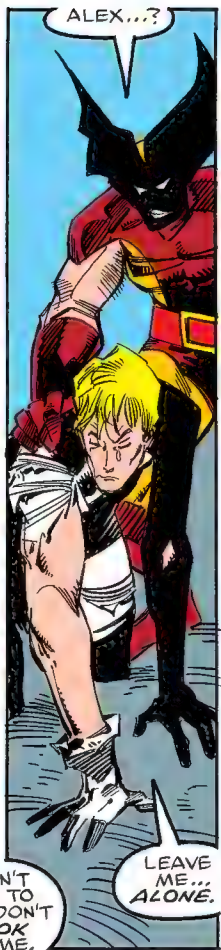


HOW DID
THIS MESS
BEGIN?

IT IS A LONG,
TRAGIC STORY,
HANK. DID YOU
EVER MEET MY
LITTLE SISTER--?

LONG-
SHOT--?

DON'T
TALK TO
ME, DON'T
LOOK
AT ME.



ALEX...?

LEAVE
ME...
ALONE.



HE'S A
BEAUTIFUL
BOY, SCOTT.
AT LEAST
YOU HAVE
HIM.

THE CITY REVERTED.
THE EMPIRE STATE
BUILDING REVERTED.
SO HOW COME OUR
COSTUMES STAYED
CHANGED?

MAYBE THE
DEMONS'RE
TRYIN' TA TELL
US SOMETHIN',
SUGAH.

THERE AT THE
END, THE DARKNESS
WAS ALL AROUND...
AND IT FELT
RIGHT TO ME.

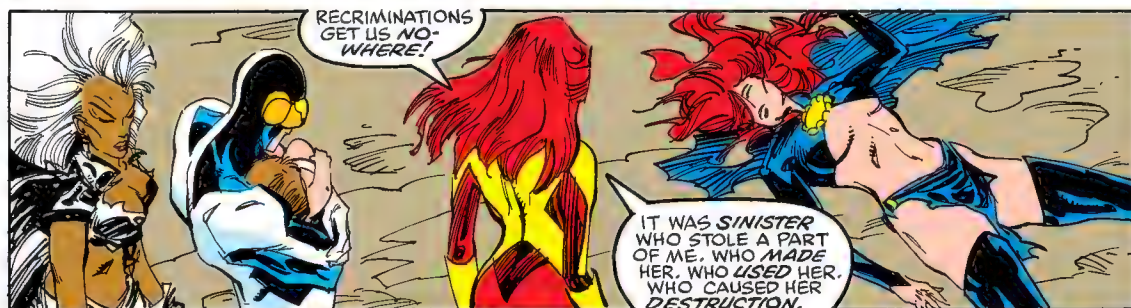
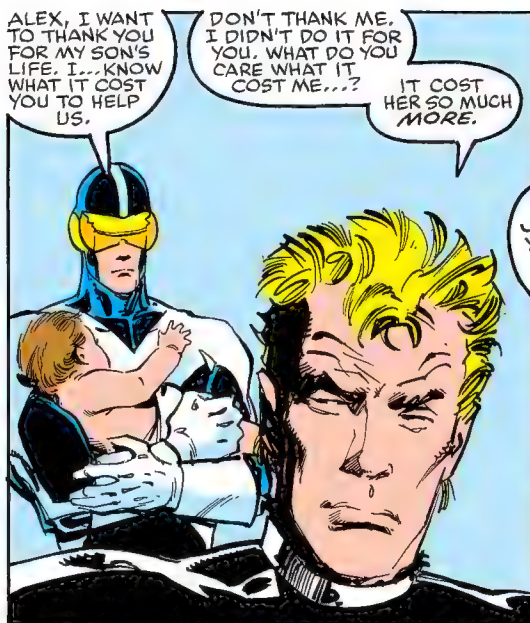
APOCALYPSE
CALLED ME DEATH.
SHE CALLED ME
THE DARK ANGEL.
IT... FITS.



SEZ YOU! YOU
RESCUED JEAN.
SAVED SCOTT'S
BROTHER. MAYBE
SAVED US ALL.

DON'T KID YOURSELF...
YOU'VE MADE YOUR
CHOICE. FORGET DARK
ANGEL. YOU'RE OUR
OFFICIAL ARCHANGEL,
NOW.

HEAVEN
KNOWS, WE
CAN USE
ONE.



IT ALL GOES BACK TO X-MEN #1. FIND OUT WHY... AND WHAT'S REALLY BEEN GOING ON WHEN--

X-MEN AND X-FACTOR CONFRONT MR. SINISTER!

IN X-MEN #243 AND X-FACTOR #39. DON'T SAY WE DIDN'T WARN YOU.

MARVEL



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APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

INFERNO

X-MEN



SILVESTRI & GREEN

SINISTER TRIUMPHANT!

INFERNO

PART THE FOURTH

JEAN GREY.

MADELYNE PRYOR.

FLIP SIDES OF
THE SAME COIN,
TWIN INCARNA-
TIONS OF THE
SAME WOMAN--
ONE THE ORIGI-
NAL...

... THE OTHER, A
COPY, FORCE-
GROWN TO ADULT-
HOOD FROM A
CLUTCH OF STOLEN
CELLS.

EARLIER TONIGHT, A DEMON
SAID CREATION WASN'T BIG
ENOUGH FOR THE BOTH OF
THEM.

HE WAS RIGHT.

ATOP THE
EMPIRE
STATE
BUILDING...

INFERNO'S
BURNT ITSELF
OUT.

EVERYTHING'S
RETURNING TO
NORMAL...

...THE WAY IT'S
SUPPOSED
TO BE.

DON'T WORRY,
PROFESSOR
AND MRS.
GREY...

BUT
AT A
PRICE,
BEAST.

...WE'LL FIND
YOU SOME PROPER
CLOTHES IN A
JIFFY.

WHY
WASN'T
THERE
ANOTHER
WAY?!

WHY DID
SHE *KILL*
HERSELF?

STAN LEE
PRESENTS

THE 25th ANNI-
VERSARY ISSUE
OF THE UNCANNY
X-MEN

AND 150th ISSUE
OF THE NEW X-MEN

YOU'LL
BE OKAY,
LONGSHOT,
TRUST ME!

IT WAS A DEMON
MADE YOU--AN' DAZZ
AN' HAVOK--TURN
AGAINST US.

PERHAPS
SO, ROGUE.

BUT LOOK AT US.

INFERNO HAS
LEFT ITS MARK.

EVERYTHING
ELSE HAS
BECOME AS
IT WAS...

...WHY HAVE
WE X-MEN
NOT RETURNED
WHOLLY TO
OURSELVES.

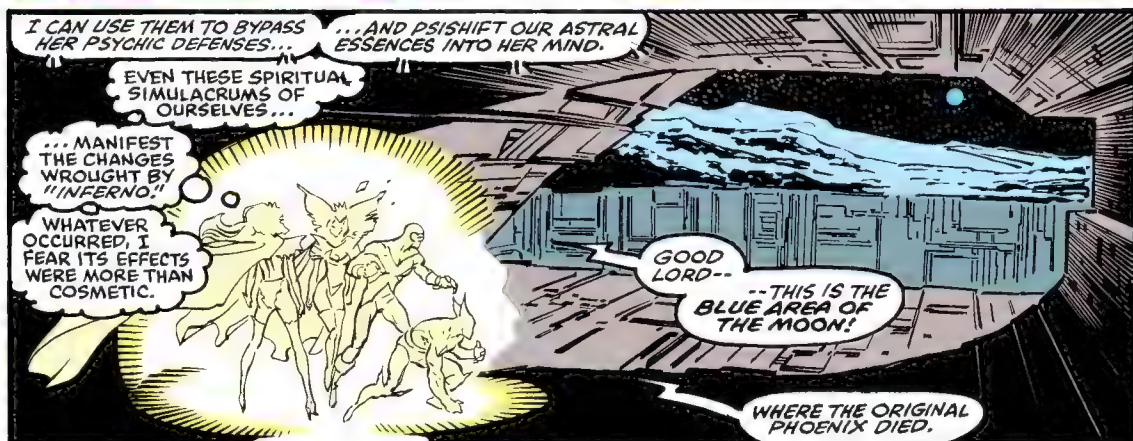
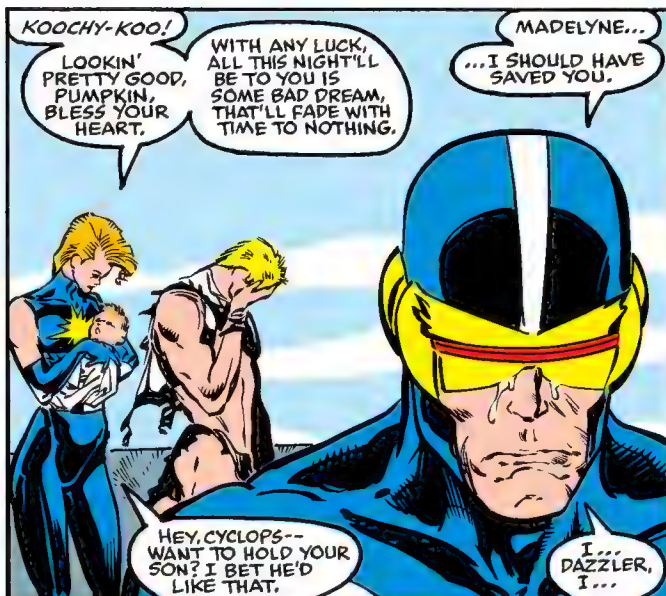
by CHRIS CLAREMONT
writer

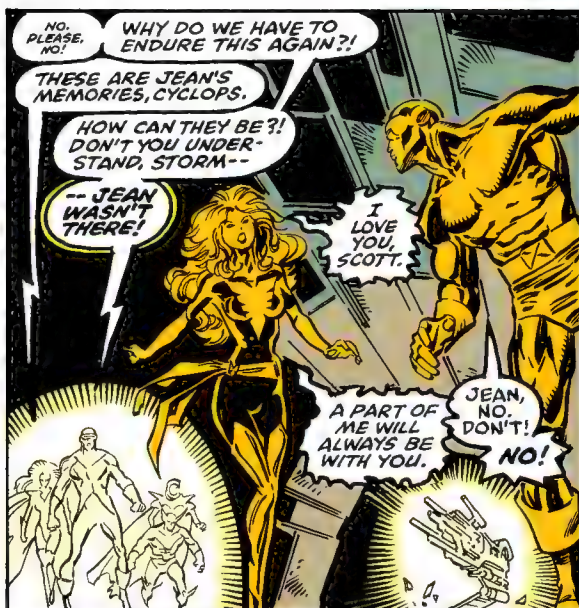
MARK SILVESTRI
penciler

HILARY BARTA
guest inker

JOE ROSEN
letterer
GLYNIS OLIVER
colorist
BOB HARRAS
editor
TOM DEFALCO
editor in chief

ASHES





NO, PLEASE, NO!

WHY DO WE HAVE TO ENDURE THIS AGAIN?!

THESE ARE JEAN'S MEMORIES, CYCLOPS.

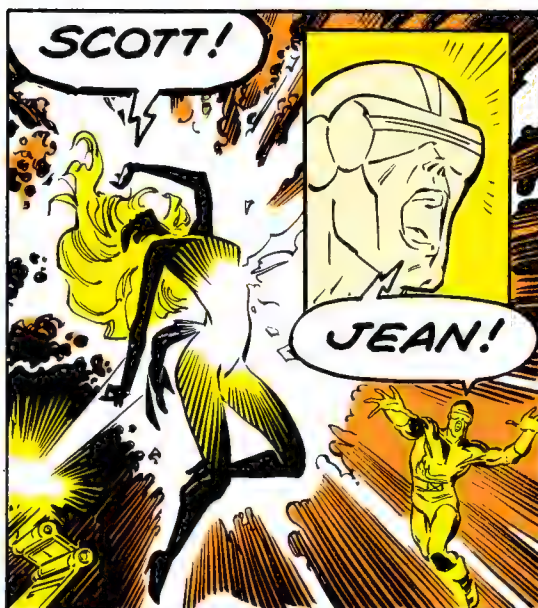
HOW CAN THEY BE?! DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND, STORM--

-- JEAN WASN'T THERE!

I LOVE YOU, SCOTT.

A PART OF ME WILL ALWAYS BE WITH YOU.

JEAN, NO, DON'T! NO!



SCOTT!

JEAN!



SEE, SCOTT.

THE PHOENIX-ENERGY DOES NOT DISSIPATE WITH HER DEATH.

IT RISES TOWARDS THE EARTH!

BUT, STORM, JEAN-- THE REAL JEAN, THE JEAN WHO EXISTS NOW -- SHE WAS IN SUSPENDED ANIMATION...

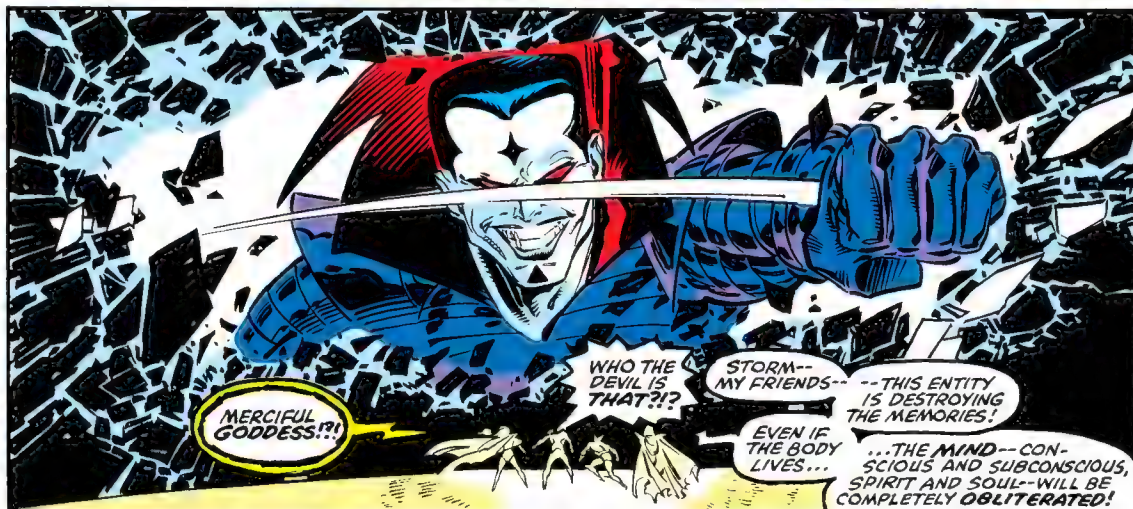
...IN THE COCOON PHOENIX PLACED HER IN LONG BEFORE THIS HAPPENED.

HOW COULD SHE KNOW ALL THIS?



HOWEVER, BEFORE ANYONE CAN BEGIN EVEN TO FRAME AN ANSWER...

SHADAM!



MERCIFUL GODDESS?!

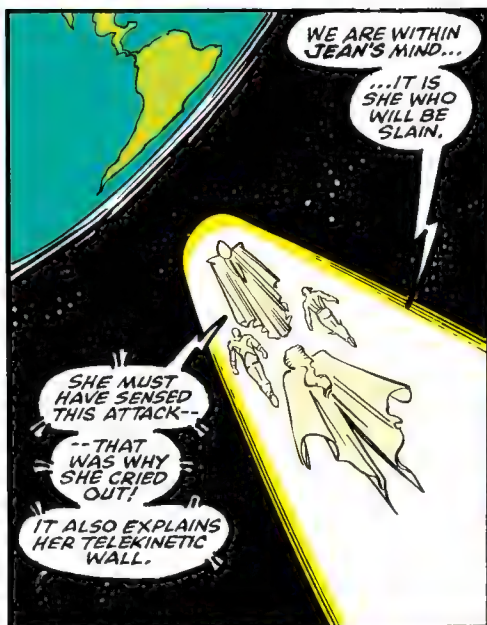
WHO THE DEVIL IS THAT?!

STORM-- MY FRIENDS--

-- THIS ENTITY IS DESTROYING THE MEMORIES!

EVEN IF THE BODY LIVES...

...THE MIND-- CONSCIOUS AND SUBCONSCIOUS, SPIRIT AND SOUL-- WILL BE COMPLETELY OBLITERATED!



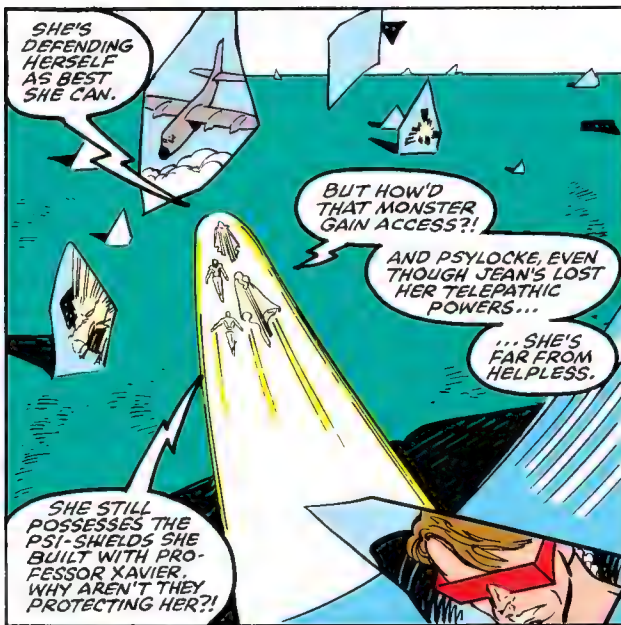
WE ARE WITHIN JEAN'S MIND...

...IT IS SHE WHO WILL BE SLAIN.

SHE MUST HAVE SENSED THIS ATTACK--

--THAT WAS WHY SHE CRIED OUT!

IT ALSO EXPLAINS HER TELEKINETIC WALL.



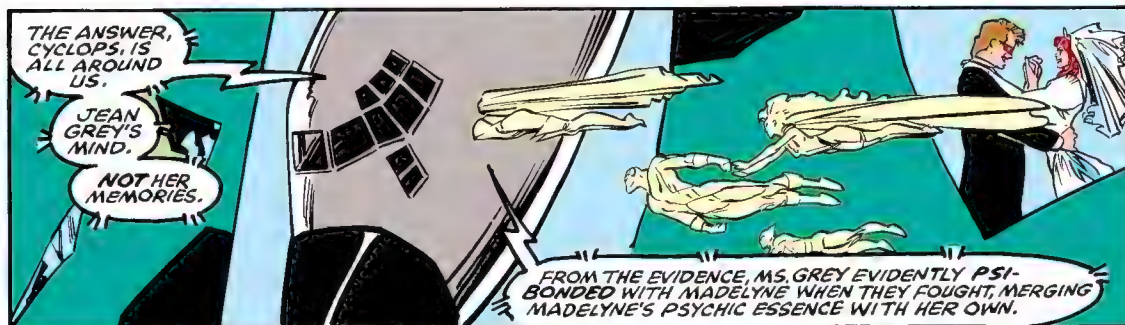
SHE'S DEFENDING HERSELF AS BEST SHE CAN.

BUT HOW'D THAT MONSTER GAIN ACCESS?!

AND PSYLOCKE, EVEN THOUGH JEAN'S LOST HER TELEPATHIC POWERS...

... SHE'S FAR FROM HELPLESS.

SHE STILL POSSESSES THE PSI-SHIELDS SHE BUILT WITH PROFESSOR XAVIER. WHY AREN'T THEY PROTECTING HER?!

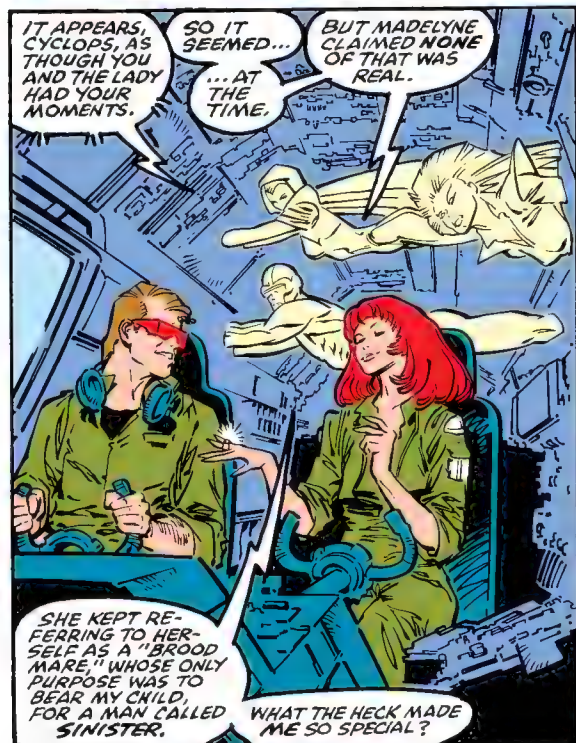


THE ANSWER, CYCLOPS, IS ALL AROUND US.

JEAN GREY'S MIND.

NOT HER MEMORIES.

FROM THE EVIDENCE, MS. GREY EVIDENTLY PSI-BONDED WITH MADELYNE WHEN THEY FOUGHT, MERGING MADELYNE'S PSYCHIC ESSENCE WITH HER OWN.



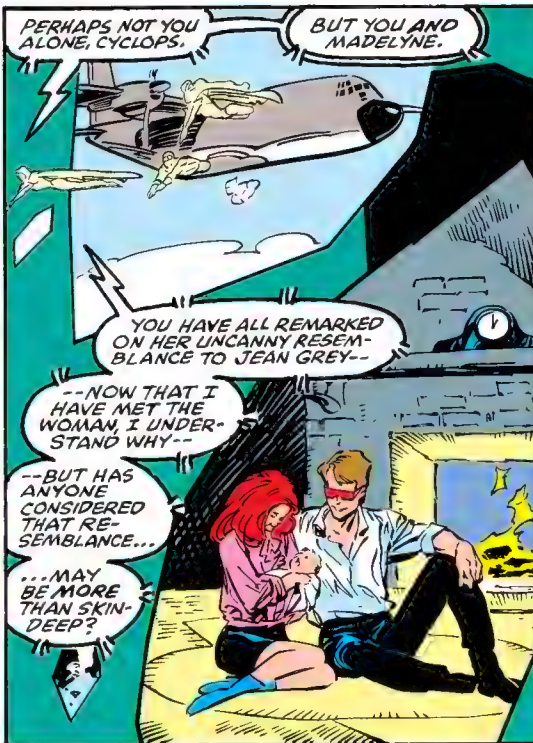
IT APPEARS, CYCLOPS, AS THOUGH YOU AND THE LADY HAD YOUR MOMENTS.

SO IT SEEMED...
...AT THE TIME.

BUT MADELYNE CLAIMED NONE OF THAT WAS REAL.

SHE KEPT RE-FERRING TO HERSELF AS A "BROOD MARE," WHOSE ONLY PURPOSE WAS TO BEAR MY CHILD, FOR A MAN CALLED SINISTER.

WHAT THE HECK MADE ME SO SPECIAL?



PERHAPS NOT YOU ALONE, CYCLOPS.

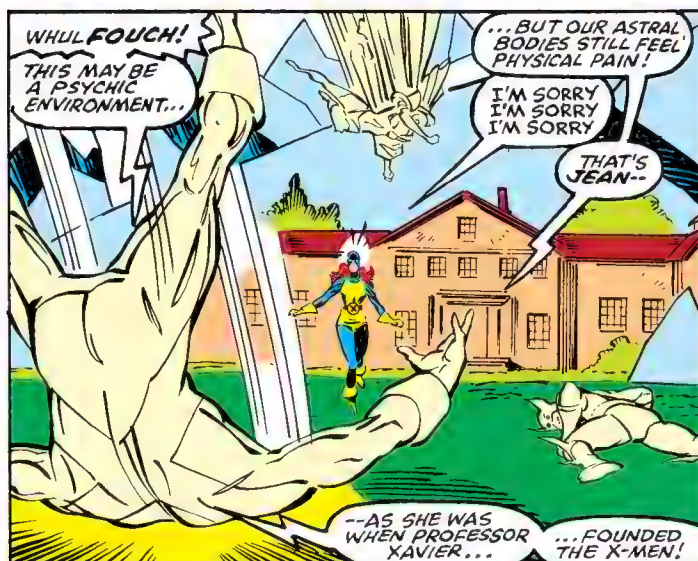
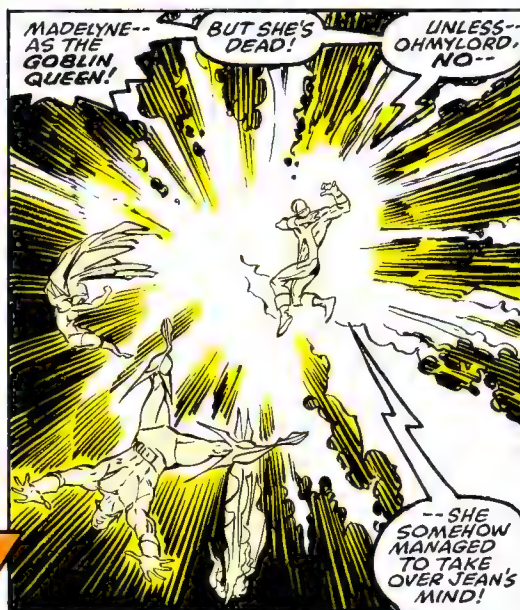
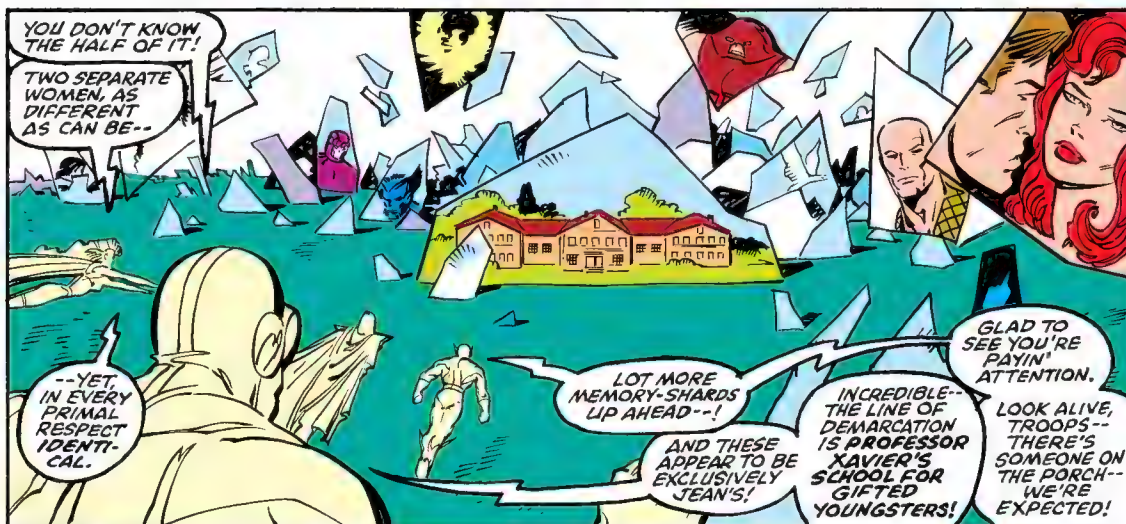
BUT YOU AND MADELYNE.

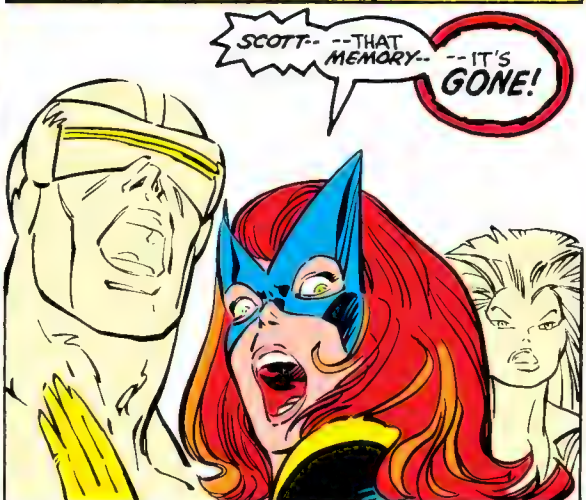
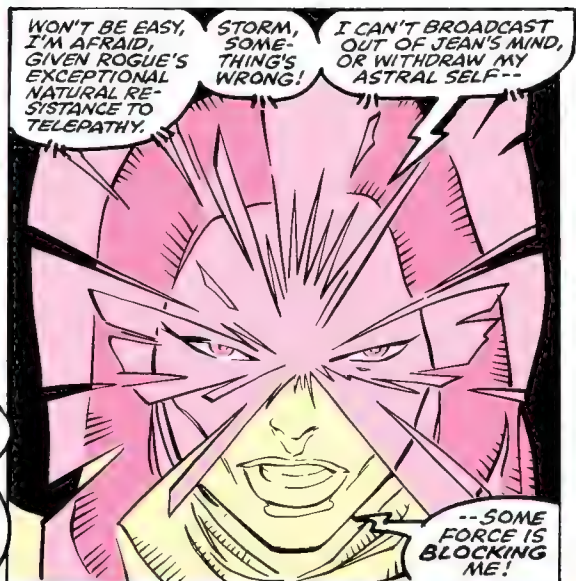
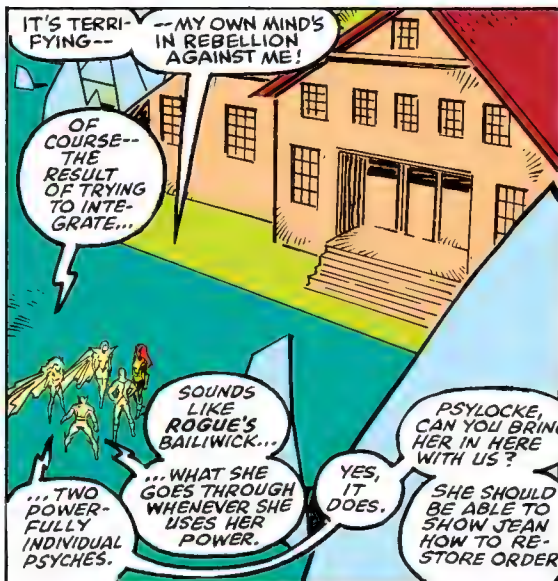
YOU HAVE ALL REMARKED ON HER UNCANNY RESEMBLANCE TO JEAN GREY--

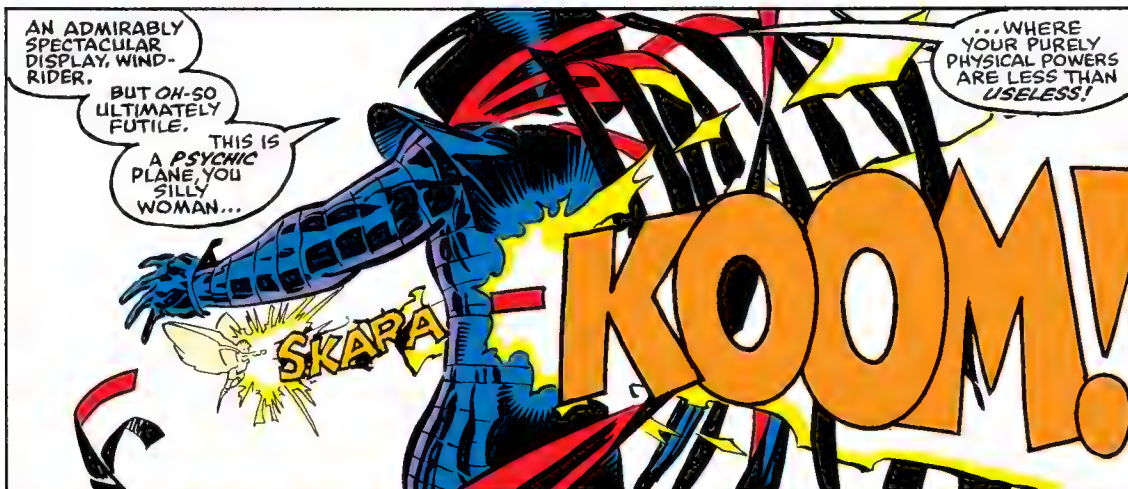
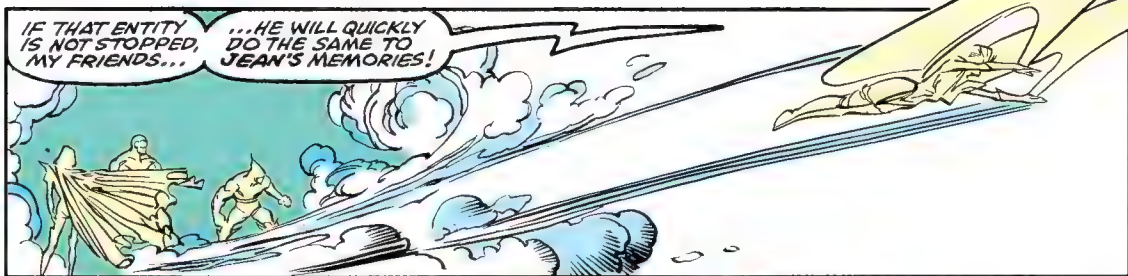
--NOW THAT I HAVE MET THE WOMAN, I UNDERSTAND WHY--

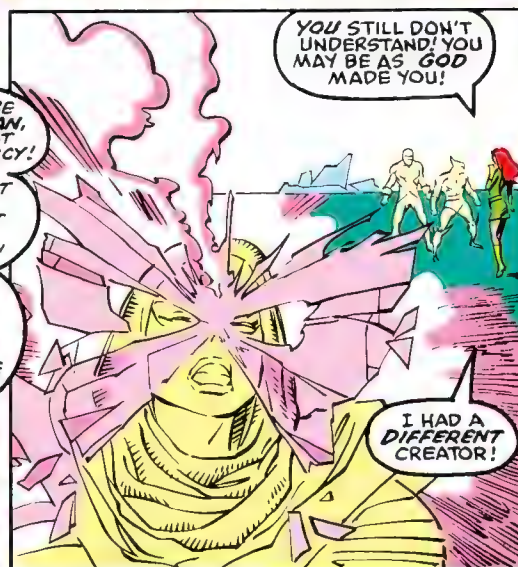
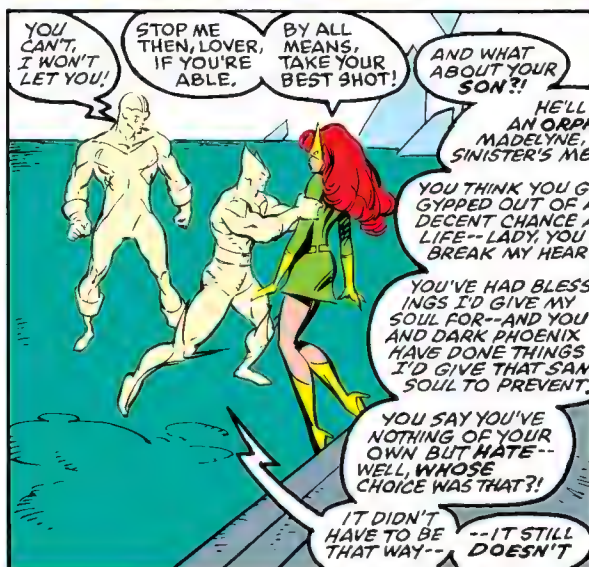
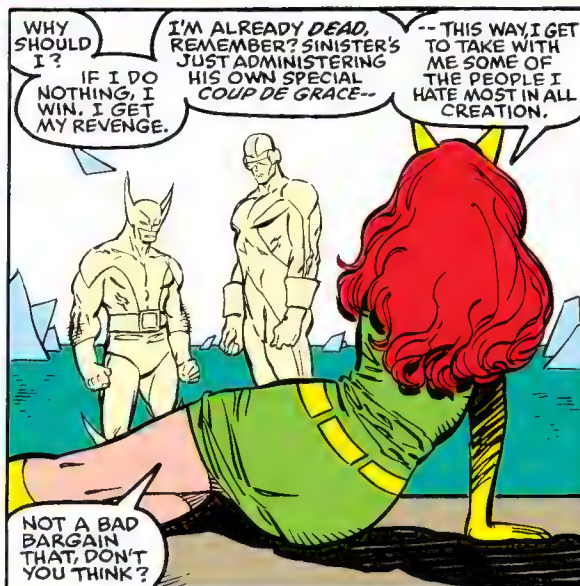
--BUT HAS ANYONE CONSIDERED THAT RESEMBLANCE...

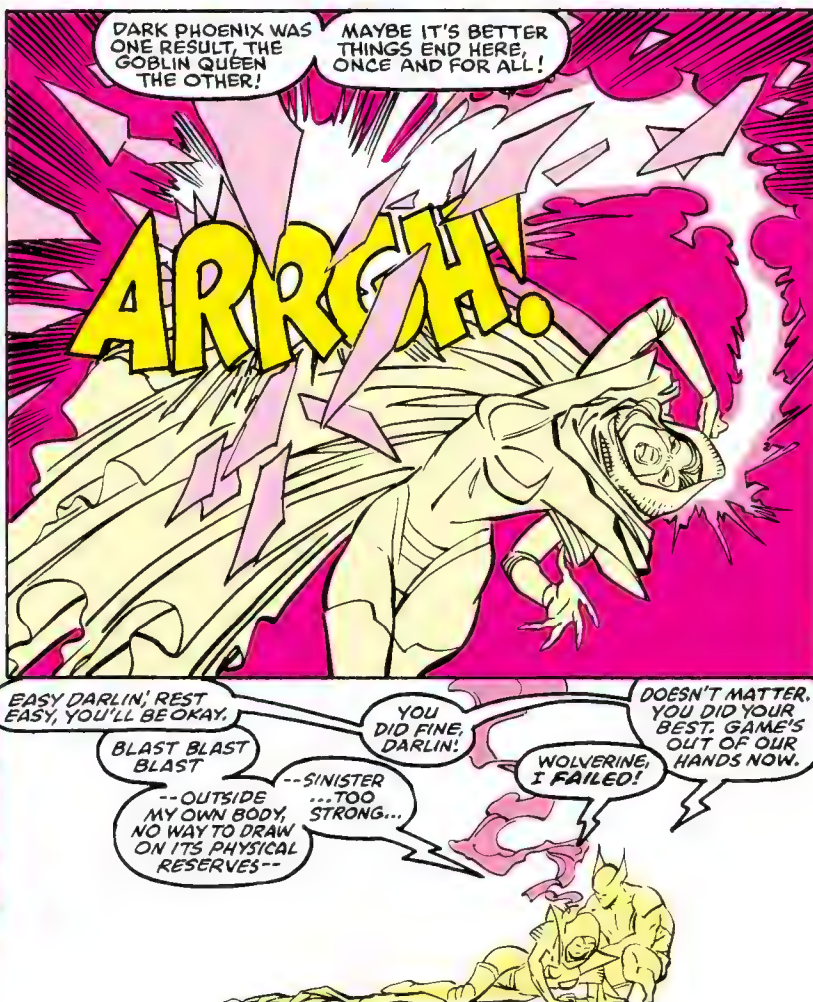
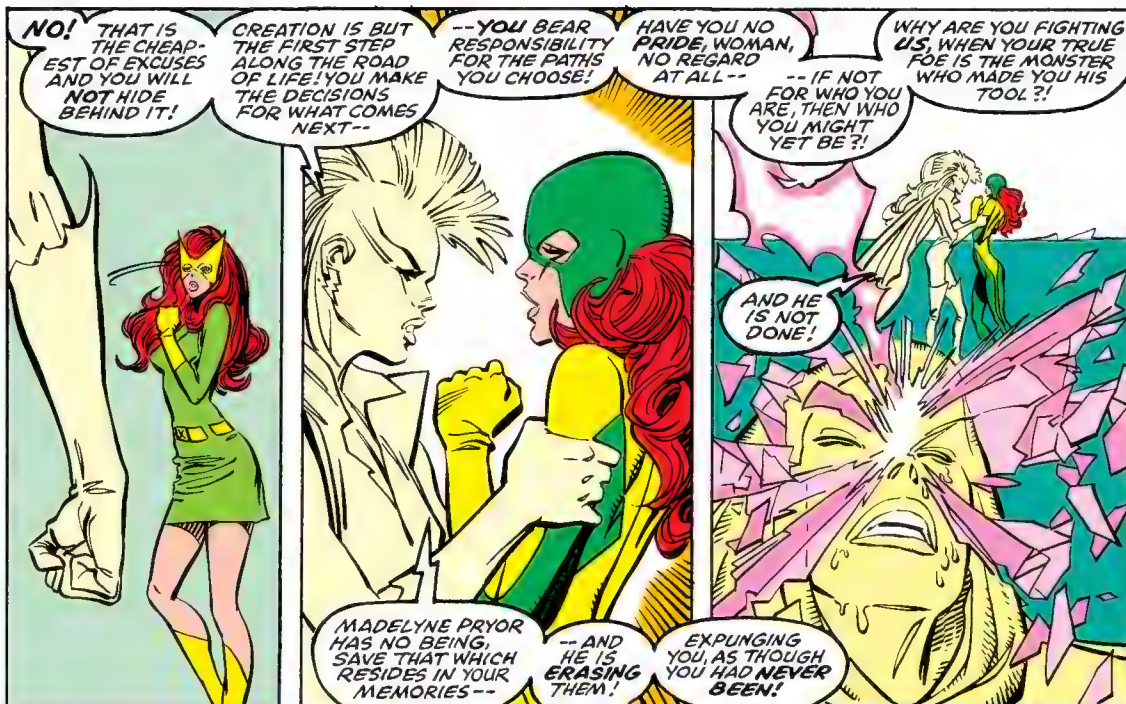
...MAY BE MORE THAN SKIN-DEEP?

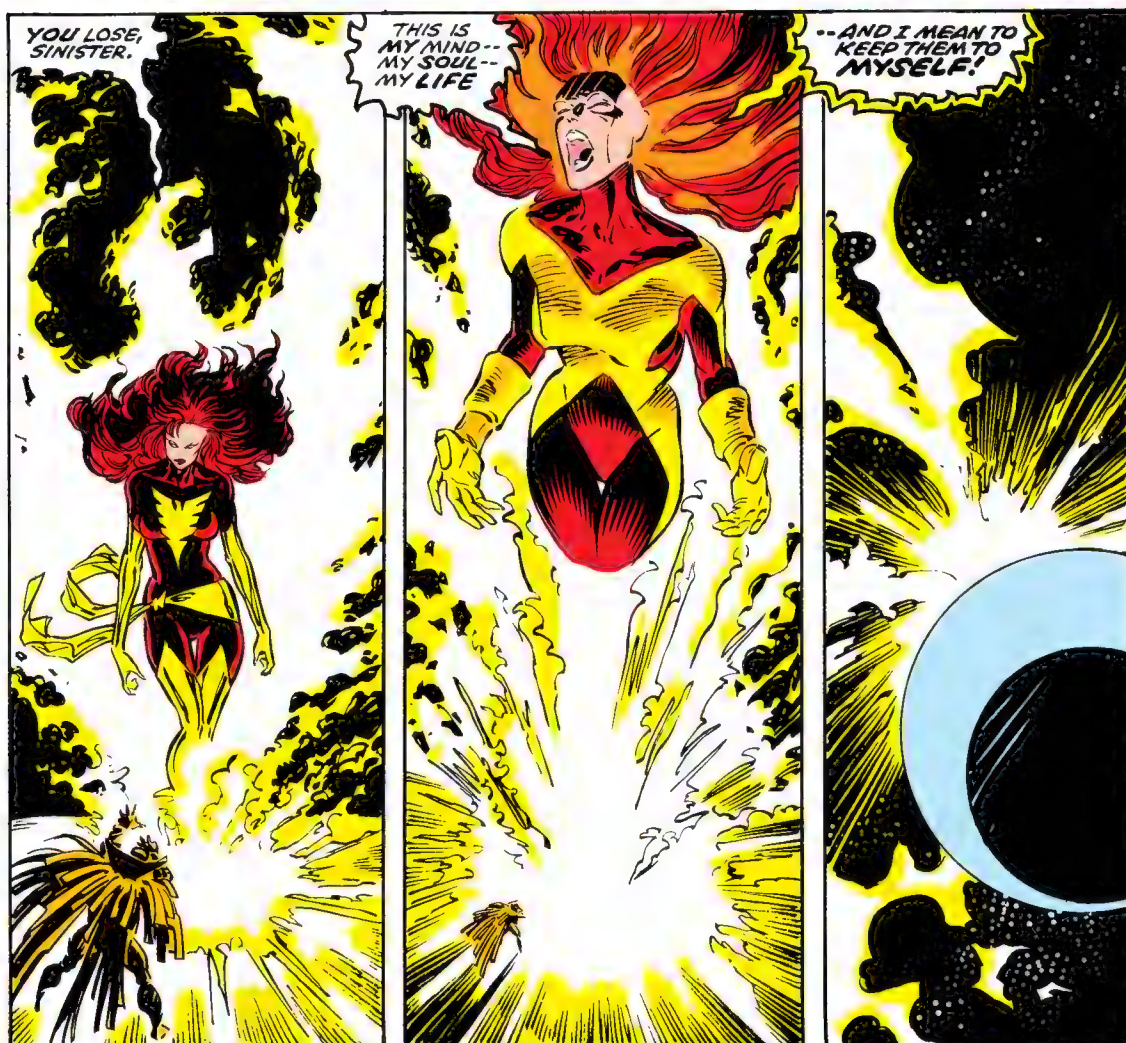
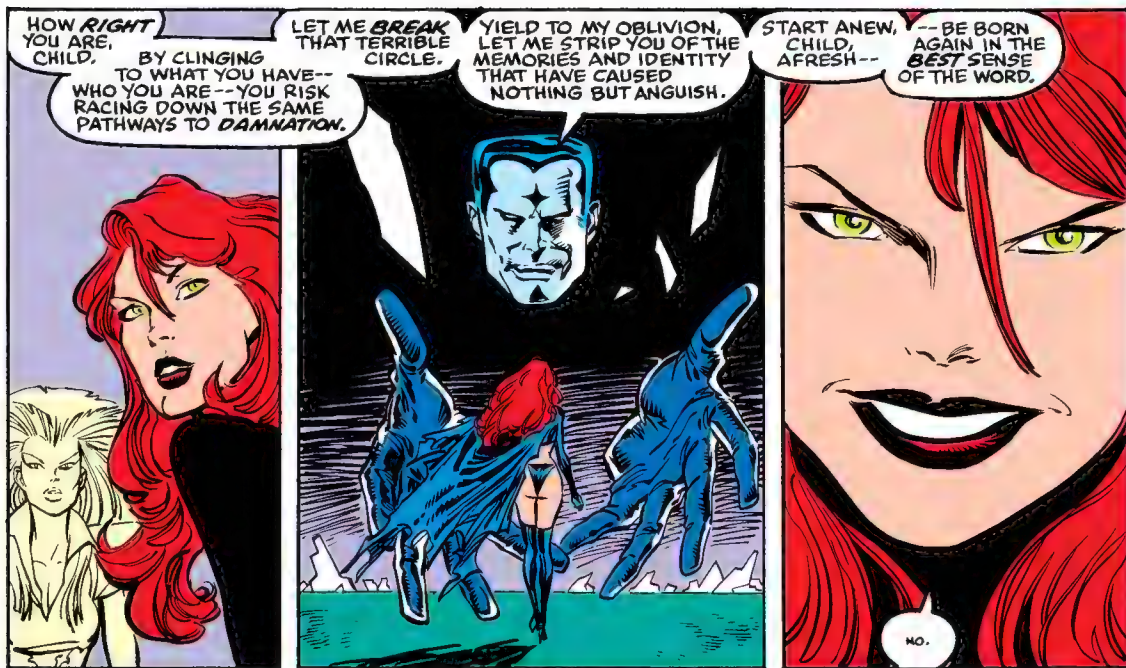


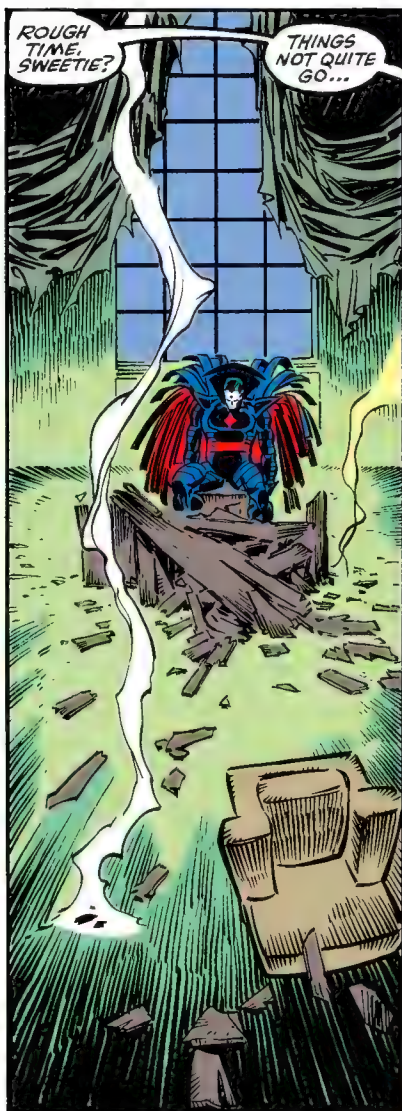






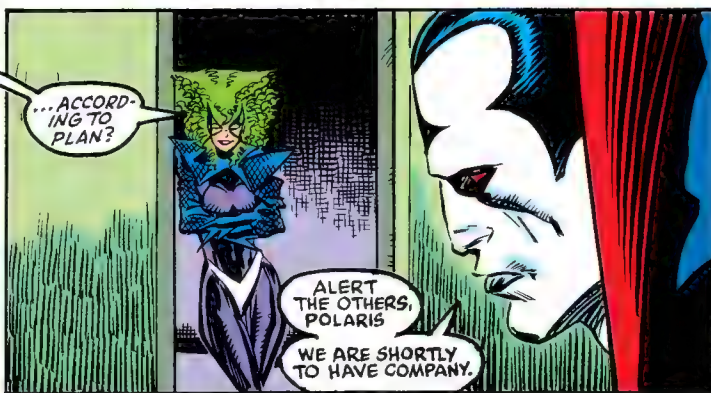






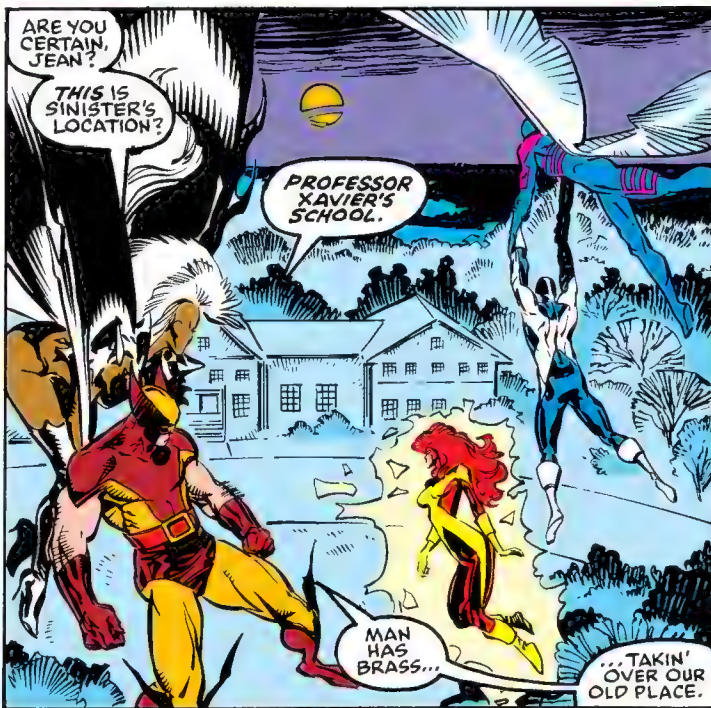
ROUGH TIME, SWEETIE?

THINGS NOT QUITE GO...



...ACCORDING TO PLAN?

ALERT THE OTHERS, POLARIS.
WE ARE SHORTLY TO HAVE COMPANY.



ARE YOU CERTAIN, JEAN?

THIS IS SINISTER'S LOCATION?

PROFESSOR XAVIER'S SCHOOL.

MAN HAS BRASS...

...TAKIN' OVER OUR OLD PLACE.



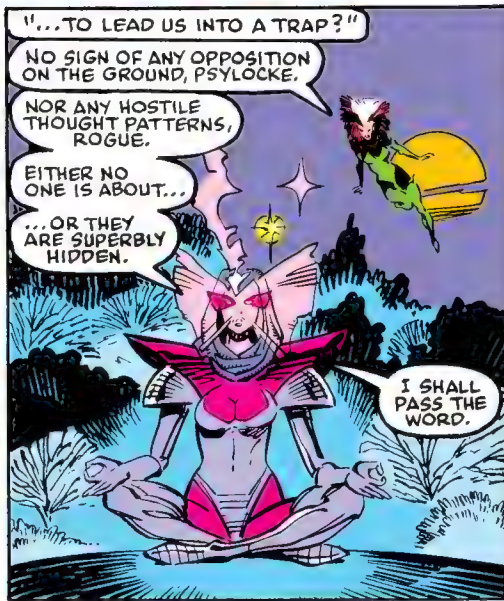
I DON'T SHARE YOUR ADMIRATION, WOLVERINE.

AND YES, STORM, I'M CERTAIN.

I PICKED IT FROM SINISTER'S MIND DURING OUR FINAL CONFRONTATION.

BUT CAN THAT INFORMATION BE TRUSTED?

SUPPOSE HE ALLOWED YOU TO SCAN IT...



"...TO LEAD US INTO A TRAP?"

NO SIGN OF ANY OPPOSITION ON THE GROUND, PSYLOCKE.

NOR ANY HOSTILE THOUGHT PATTERNS, ROGUE.

EITHER NO ONE IS ABOUT...

...OR THEY ARE SUPERBLY HIDDEN.

I SHALL PASS THE WORD.



SINISTER ISN'T MAKING THIS EASY FOR US.

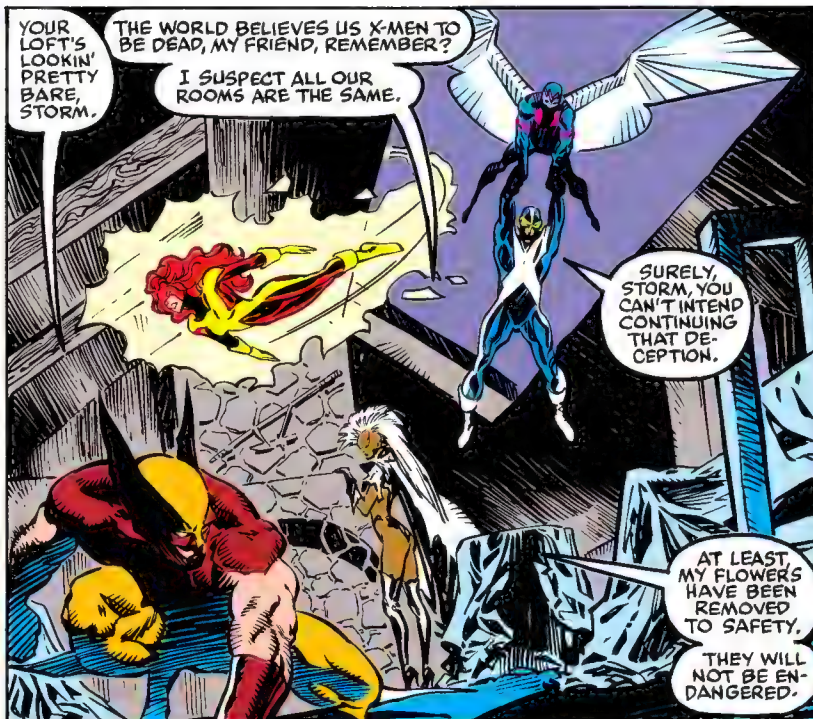
DID YOU REALLY THINK HE WOULD, WARREN?

ONLY ONE WAY TO BE SURE--

--THE OLD-FASHIONED WAY...

...THE HARDEST, AN' THE BEST...

...UP-CLOSE AN' PERSONAL.



YOUR LOFT'S LOOKIN' PRETTY BARE, STORM.

THE WORLD BELIEVES US X-MEN TO BE DEAD, MY FRIEND, REMEMBER?

I SUSPECT ALL OUR ROOMS ARE THE SAME.

SURELY, STORM, YOU CAN'T INTEND CONTINUING THAT DECEPTION.

AT LEAST MY FLOWERS HAVE BEEN REMOVED TO SAFETY.

THEY WILL NOT BE ENDANGERED.



WHAT ABOUT US, DARLIN'?

WE, "DARLIN'," CAN TAKE CARE OF OURSELVES.

AND, IF NECESSARY, FLEE HARM'S WAY.

NOT THIS TIME, STORM. NOT AGAINST THIS FOE.

WHAT'S WITH YOU, JEAN? I'VE NEVER KNOWN YOU TO BE SO...



"BLOODTHIRSTY" THE WORD YOU'RE LOOKING FOR, SCOTT?

YOU'RE RIGHT.

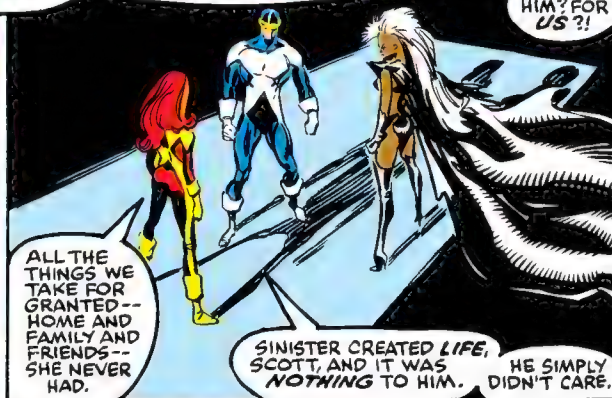
MADELYNE'S A PART OF ME NOW--

--I KNOW HER, EVERY BIT AS WELL AS I DO MYSELF, BECAUSE IN A SENSE, SHE IS MYSELF!

SINISTER STOLE A PIECE OF ME AND USED IT TO CREATE HER. HE GAVE HER A LIFE THAT WAS A LIE AND WHEN HE HAD NO MORE USE FOR HER, HE THREW HER AWAY.

IS IT ANY WONDER SHE WAS SO FULL OF HATE--

--FOR HIM? FOR US?!



ALL THE THINGS WE TAKE FOR GRANTED-- HOME AND FAMILY AND FRIENDS-- SHE NEVER HAD.

SINISTER CREATED LIFE, SCOTT, AND IT WAS NOTHING TO HIM. HE SIMPLY DIDN'T CARE.

I DON'T THINK I EVER UNDERSTOOD THE TRUE MEANING OF EVIL BEFORE--

--WE USE THAT WORD SO CASUALLY, DEVALUING IT EVERY TIME--

--BUT SINISTER IS EVIL. I KNOW THAT TO THE DEPTHS OF MY HEART AND SOUL.

NOTHING MATTERS SO LONG AS HE REMAINS FREE!

IF BEING WHO WE ARE--X-MEN AND X-FACTOR BOTH, WHATEVER WE CHOOSE TO CALL OURSELVES--MEANS ANYTHING...

...IF WE'RE TO BE TRUE TO THE DREAM THAT LED CHARLES XAVIER TO FOUND THIS SCHOOL FOR GIFTED YOUNGSTERS AND GATHER US TOGETHER...

...IF WE REALLY ARE "HEROES"...

...SINISTER HAS TO BE STOPPED!

STORM, SHE MEANS--!

YES, SCOTT, I KNOW.

SHE'S ACTING MORE LIKE WOLVERINE THAN WOLVERINE!

THIS ONCE, MY FRIEND...

...WITH GOOD REASON.

I'VE TELEPATHICALLY ALERTED THE OTHERS, ROGUE, THAT WE'VE ENTERED THE HANGAR COMPLEX BENEATH THE ESTATE GROUNDS.

AS BEFORE, IF ANYONE'S HERE, THEIR THOUGHTS ARE CLOAKED FROM MY PSISCONS.

THEN YOU WATCH YOURSELF, PSYLOCKE, HEAR?

AH'M SUPER-STRONG AN' PRETTY NEAR INVULNERABLE, YOU AIN'T.

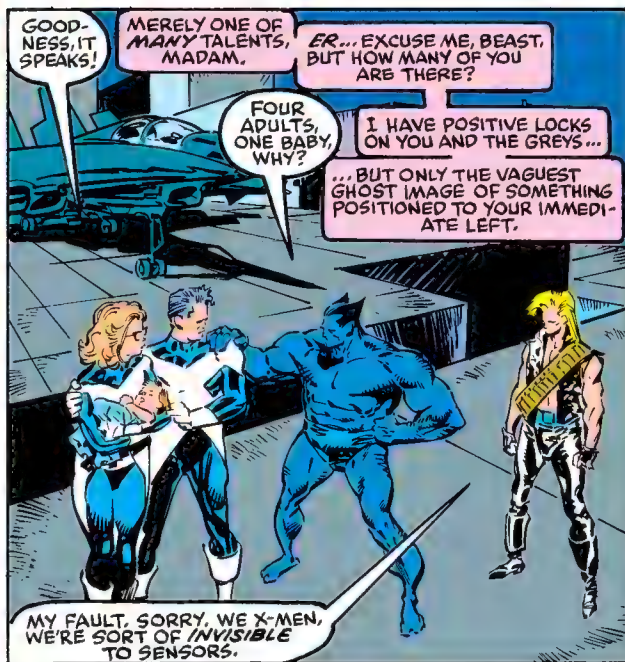
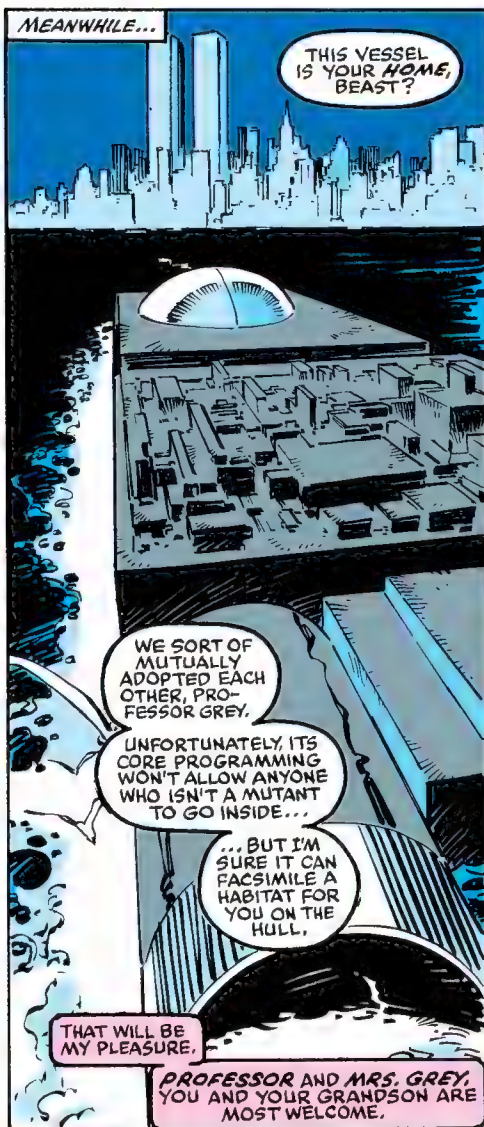
CHANGES "INFERNO" MADE TO YOUR ARMOR MAY BE MORE'N COSMETIC.

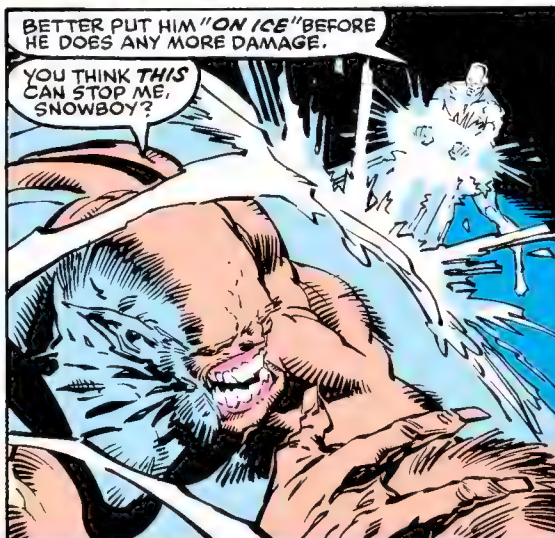
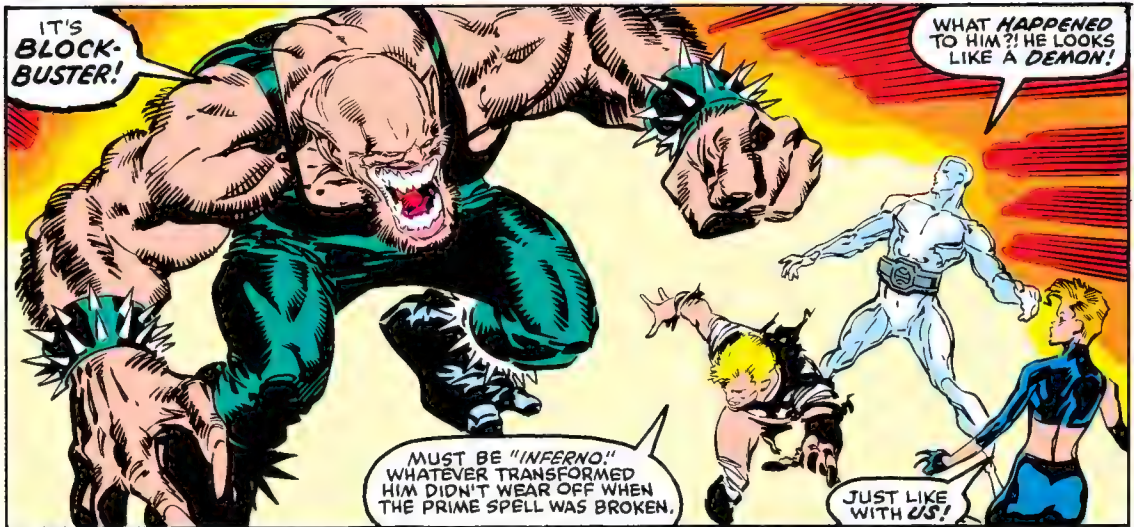
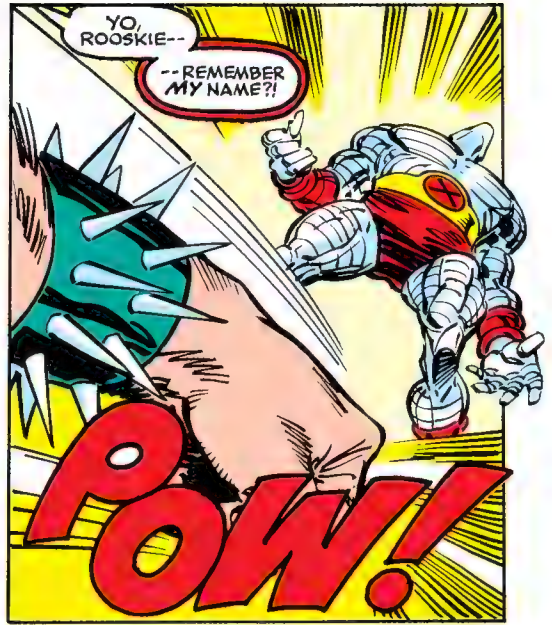
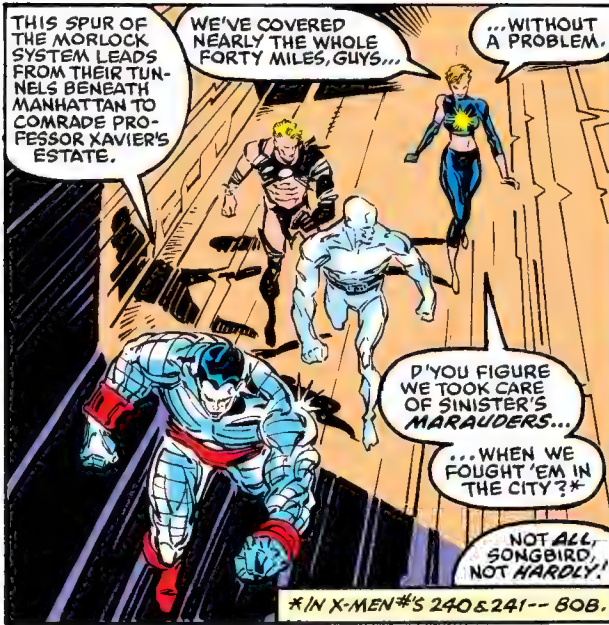
OUTFIT MAY NOT BE AS TOUGH AS IT USED TO BE.

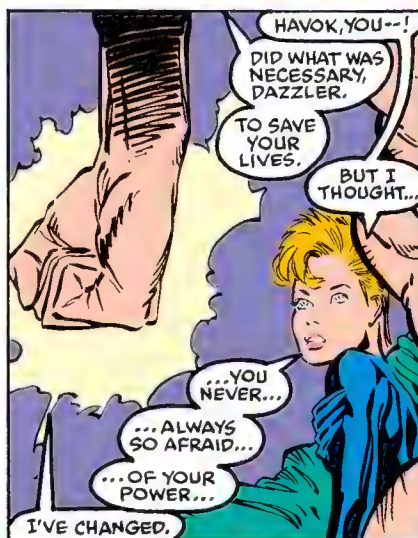
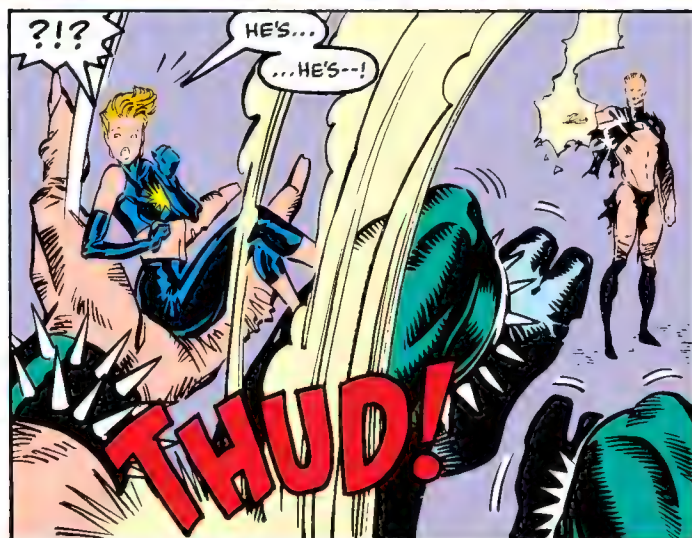
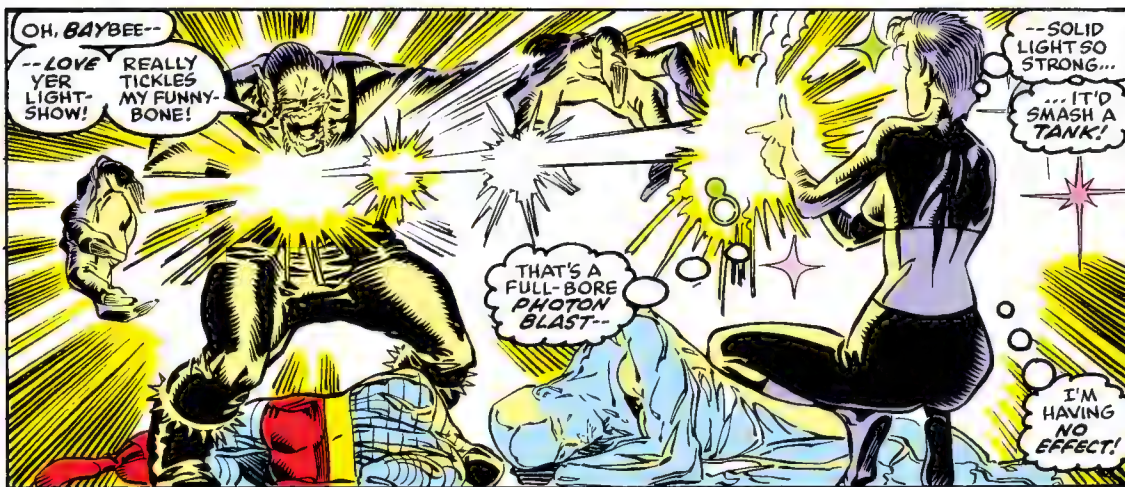
I CAN TAKE CARE OF MYSELF, ROGUE.

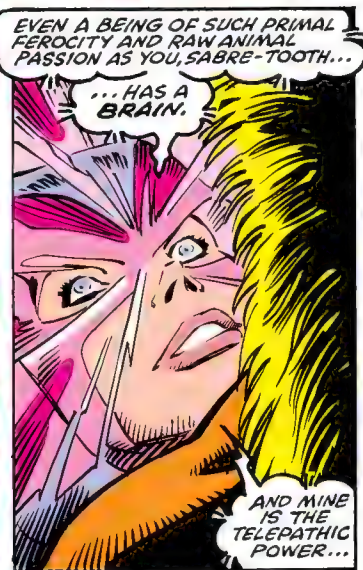
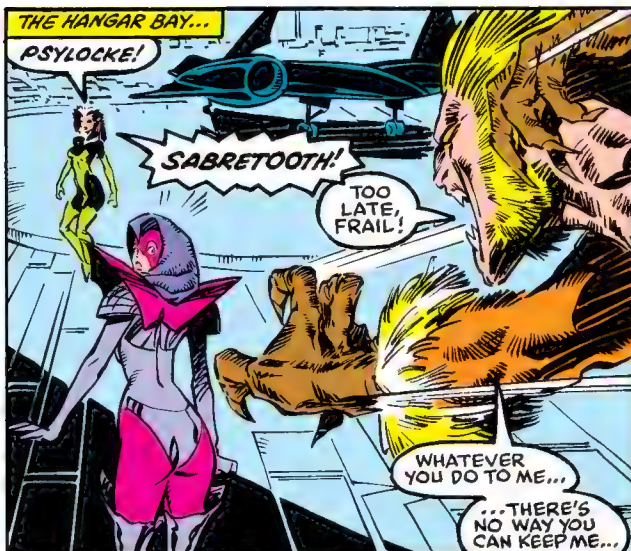
JUST LEAVE THE ROUGH STUFF TO ME, SUGAR...

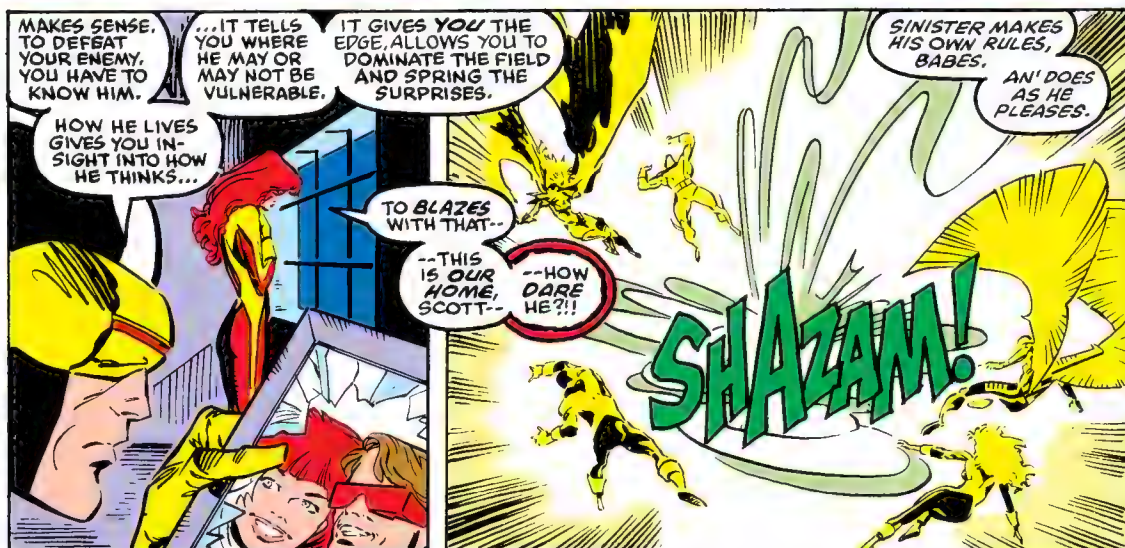
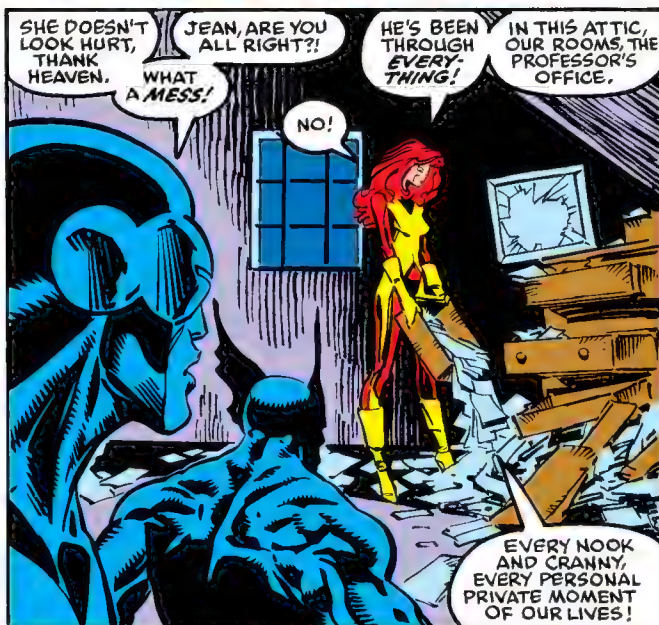
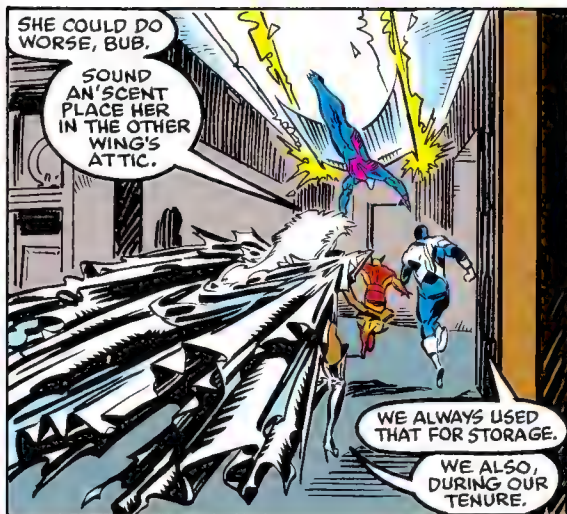
...THAT'S ALL AH'M SAYIN'.

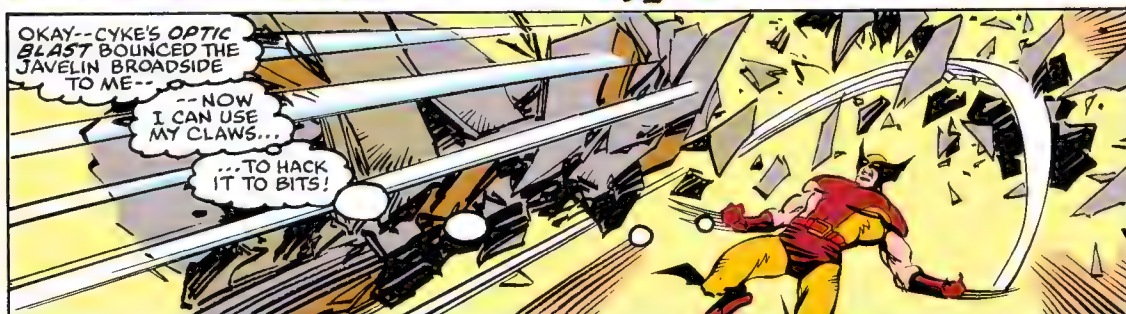
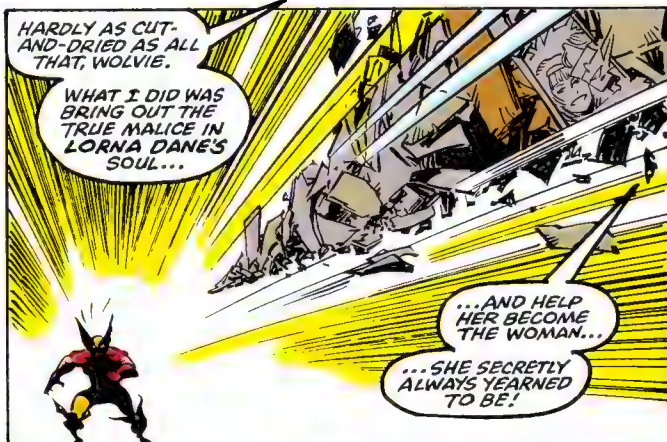
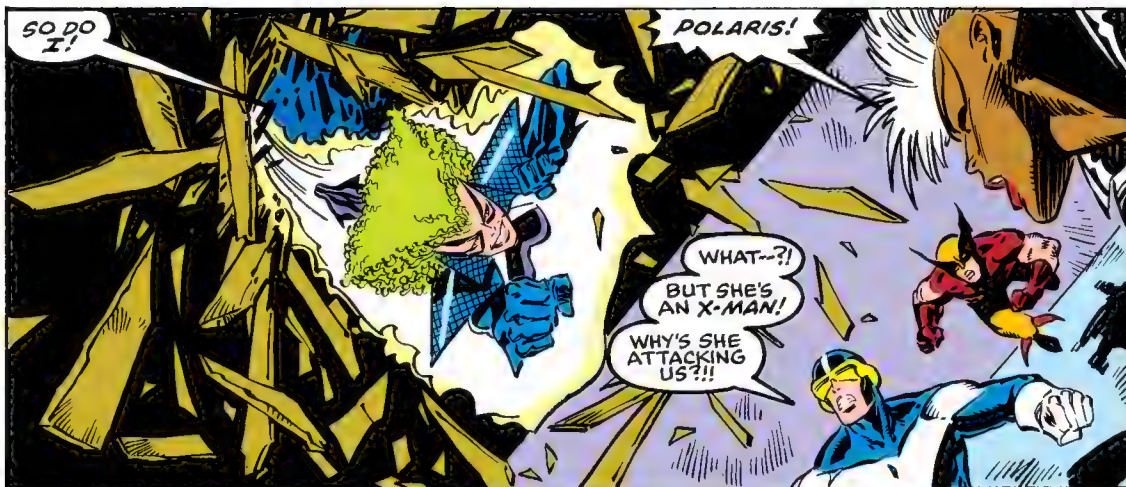


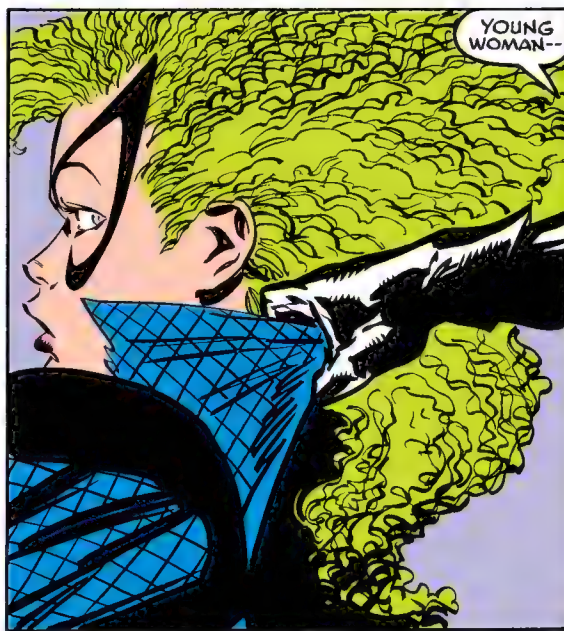
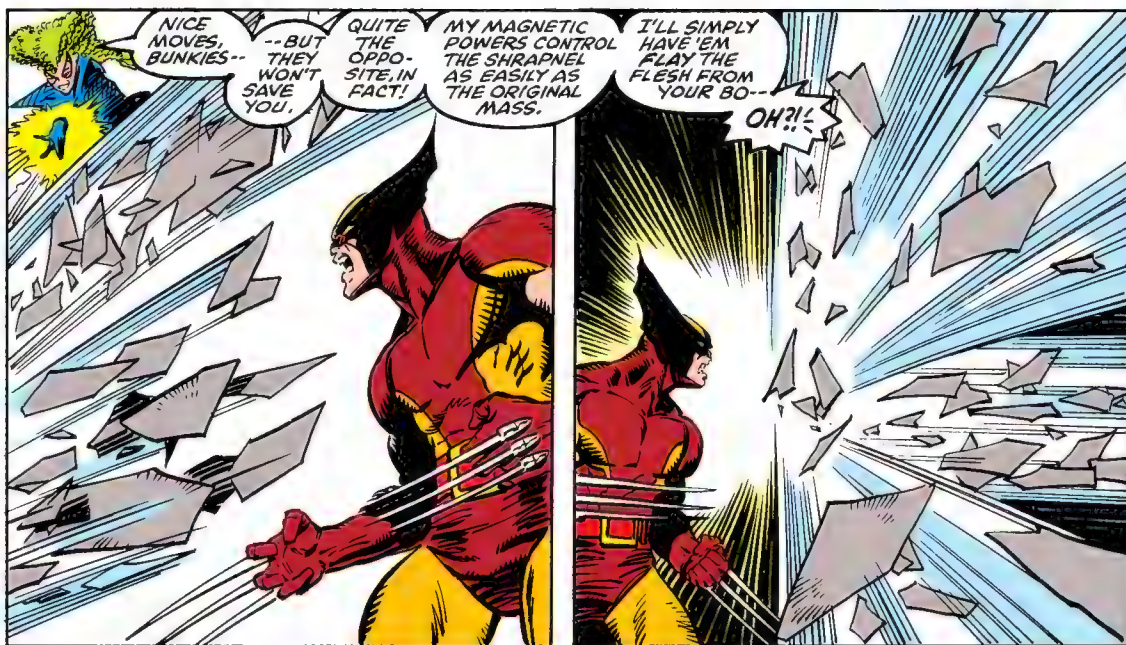


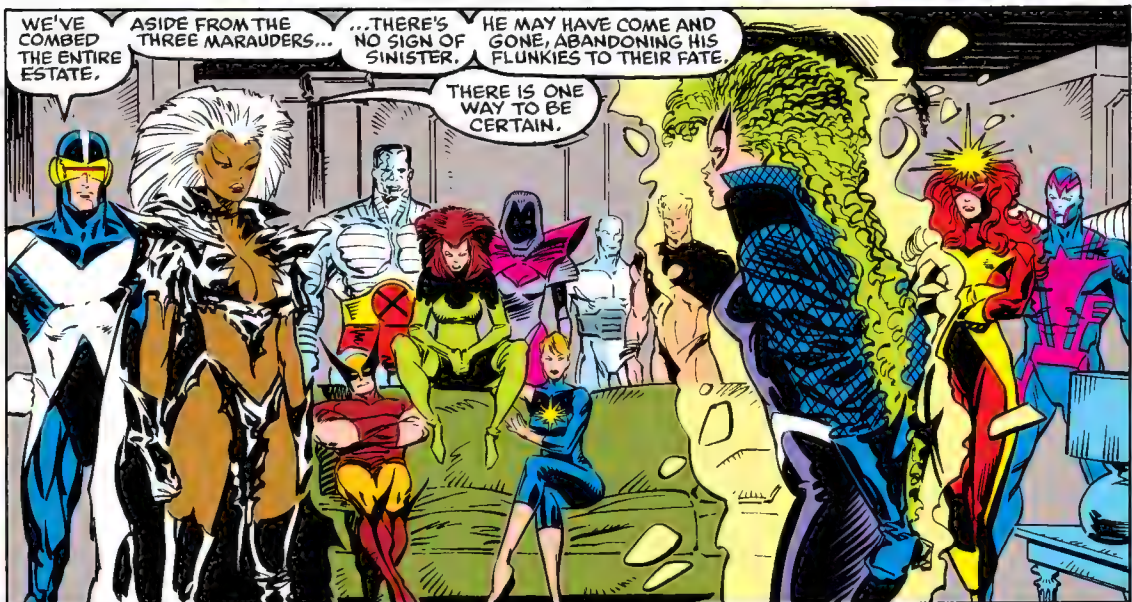


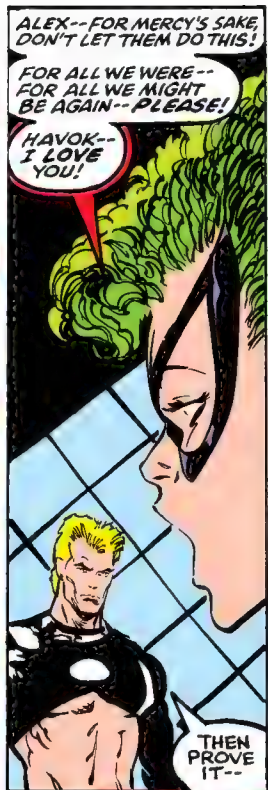
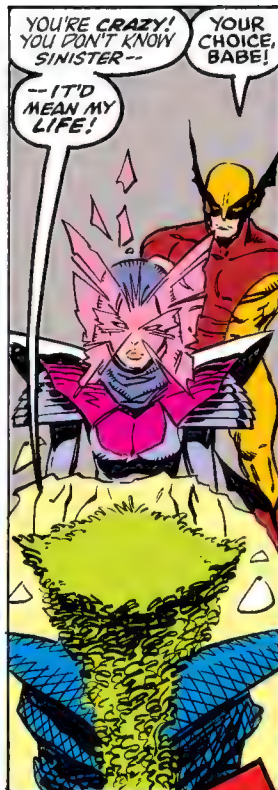
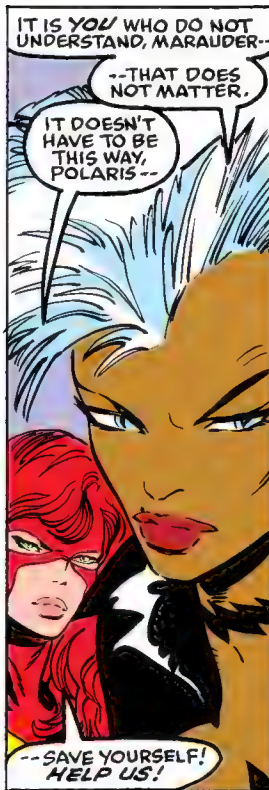


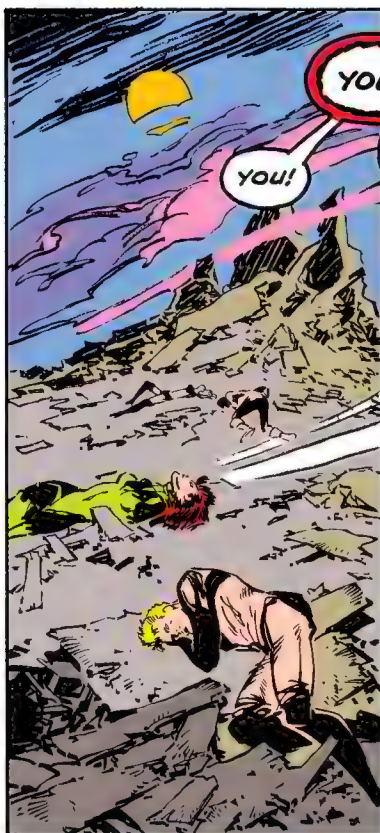












YOU!

YOU!

COULD HAVE WARNED ME!

AND RISK THEIR TELEPATH PLUCKING THAT INFORMATION FROM YOUR MIND? DON'T BE RIDICULOUS.

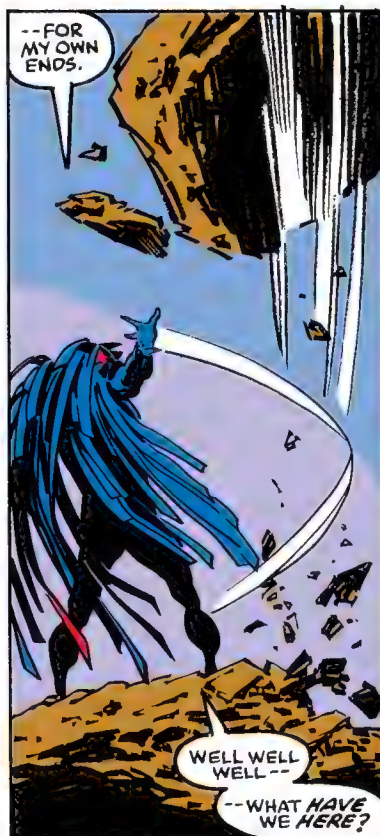
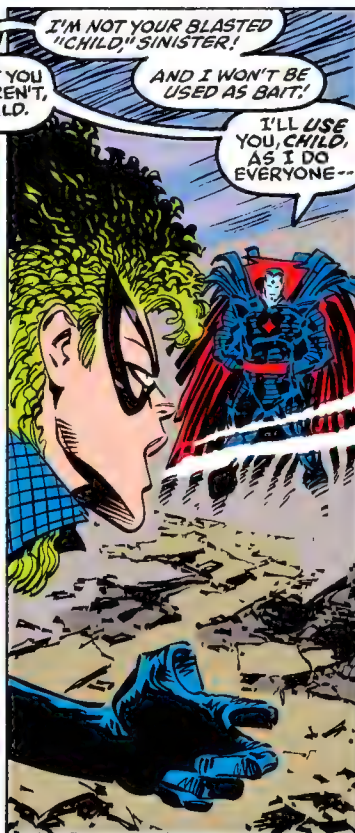
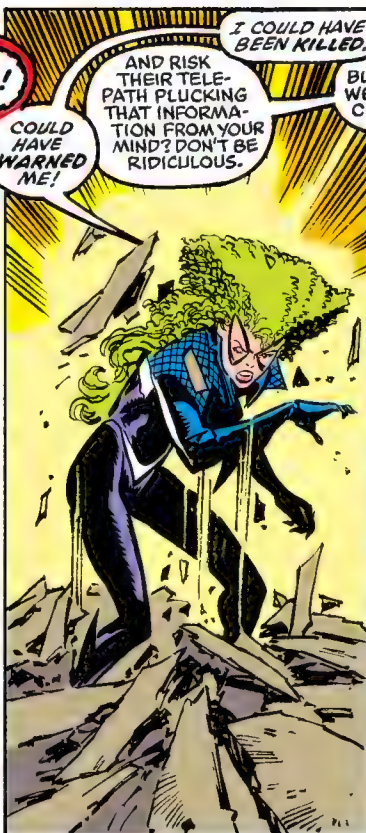
I COULD HAVE BEEN KILLED!

BUT YOU WEREN'T, CHILD.

I'M NOT YOUR BLASTED "CHILD," SINISTER!

AND I WON'T BE USED AS BAIT!

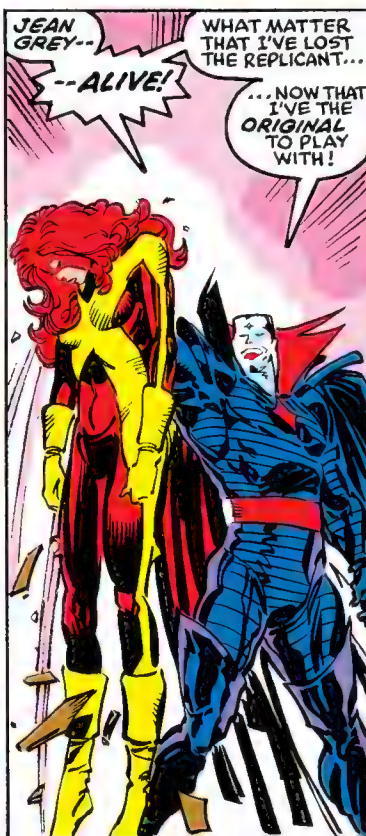
I'LL USE YOU, CHILD, AS I DO EVERYONE--



--FOR MY OWN ENDS.

WELL WELL WELL--

--WHAT HAVE WE HERE?



JEAN GREY--

--ALIVE!

WHAT MATTER THAT I'VE LOST THE REPLICANT...

...NOW THAT I'VE THE ORIGINAL TO PLAY WITH!



HATE TO BURST YOUR BUBBLE, BUNKIE...

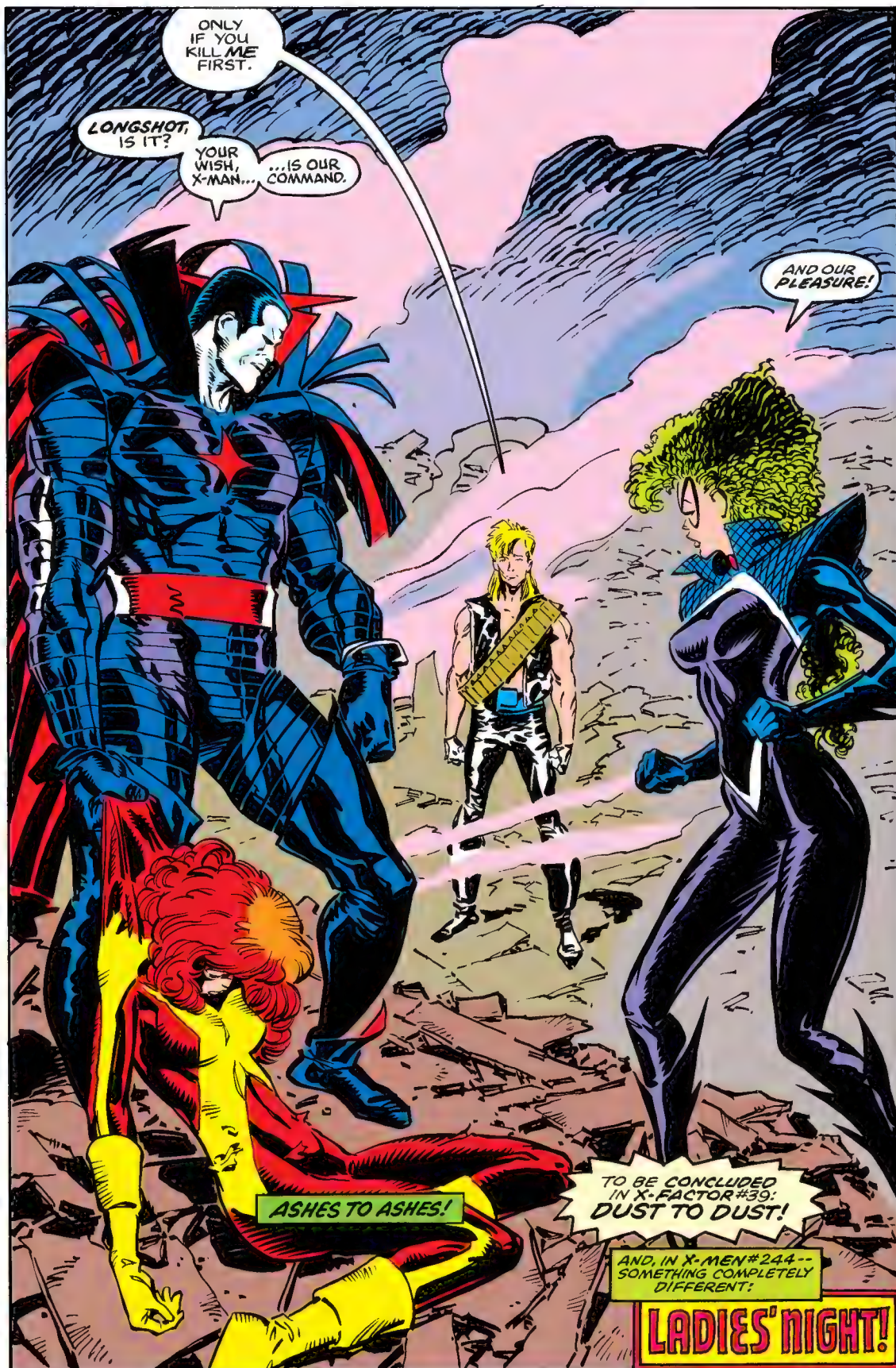
...BUT I DOUBT THE HEROES ARE GOING TO BE TOO THRILLED ABOUT YOU HEISTING THEIR FAVORITE REDHEAD.

NO PROBLEM.

THEY'RE ALL HERE, X-MEN AND X-FACTOR BOTH.

ALL HELPLESS.

KILL THEM.



ONLY
IF YOU
KILL ME
FIRST.

LONGSHOT,
IS IT?

YOUR
WISH,
X-MAN...

...IS OUR
COMMAND.

AND OUR
PLEASURE!

ASHES TO ASHES!

TO BE CONCLUDED
IN X-FACTOR #39:
DUST TO DUST!

AND, IN X-MEN #244--
SOMETHING COMPLETELY
DIFFERENT!

LADIES' NIGHT!

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PROFESSOR XAVIER'S SCHOOL FOR GIFTED YOUNGSTERS FOSTERED THE YOUNG MUTANTS WHO ARE THE PRESENT MEMBERS OF X-FACTOR AND THE X-MEN.

NOW, MOST MEMBERS OF BOTH TEAMS HAVE FALLEN, THE SCHOOL HAS BEEN DESTROYED.

AND MR. SINISTER, LEADER OF THE MARAUDERS, STANDS TRIUMPHANT AMIDST THE RUBBLE, CLUTCHING JEAN GREY, HIS PRIZE.

BETWEEN SINISTER AND HIS GOAL STANDS A TREMBLING FIGURE...

IGNORE LONGSHOT, POLARIS. HE IS HARDLY WORTH YOUR EFFORT.

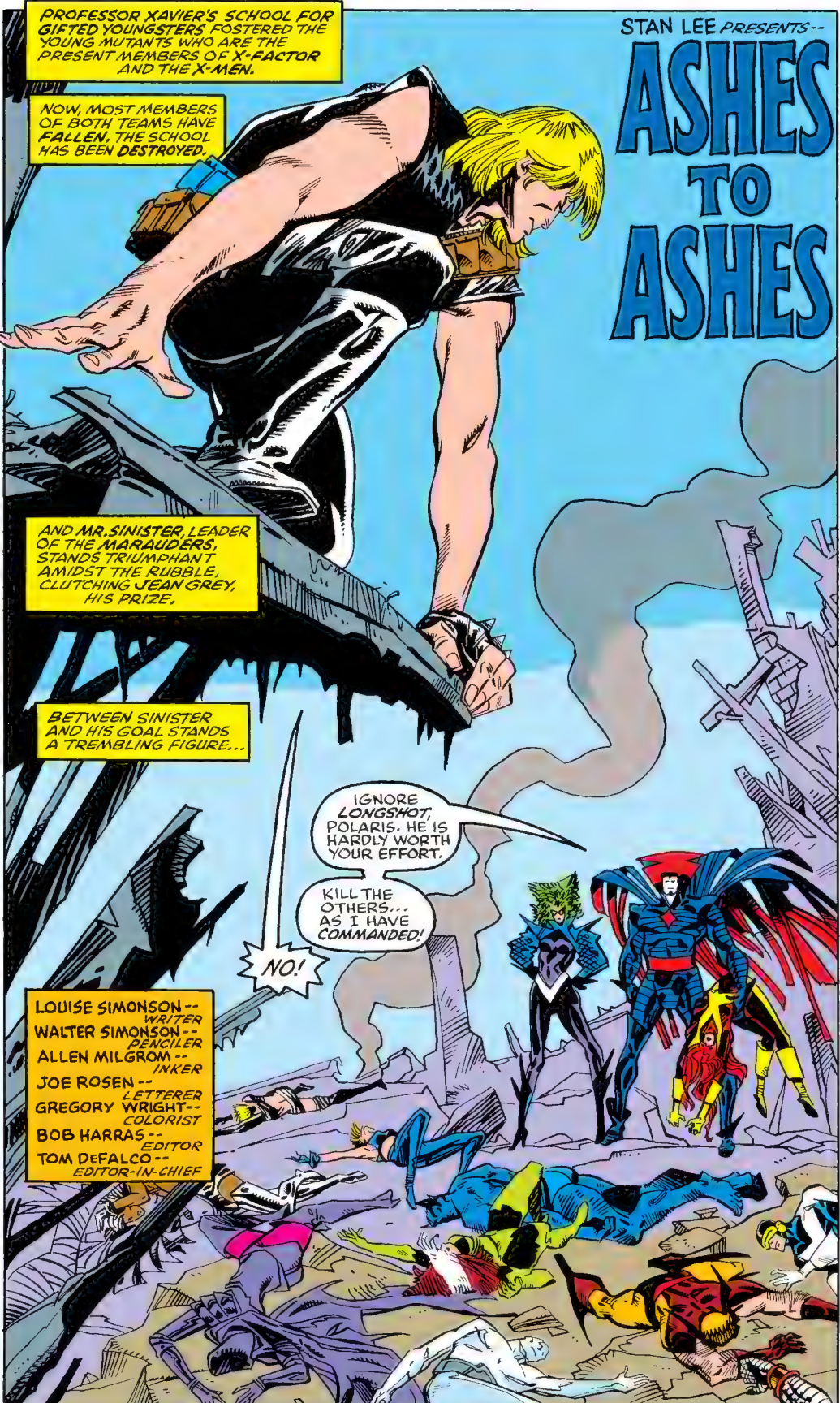
KILL THE OTHERS... AS I HAVE COMMANDED!

NO!

LOUISE SIMONSON -- WRITER
WALTER SIMONSON -- PENCILER
ALLEN MILGROM -- INKER
JOE ROSEN -- LETTERER
GREGORY WRIGHT -- COLORIST
BOB HARRAS -- EDITOR
TOM DEFALCO -- EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

STAN LEE PRESENTS--

ASHES TO ASHES





COME, LONGSHOT, ADMIT IT. POLARIS NEED NOT DESTROY YOU... FOR YOU HAVE ALREADY DESTROYED YOURSELF.

YOU CROUCH THERE, TRYING TO PROVE HOW BRAVE YOU ARE... BUT THAT IS NOT A PURE MOTIVE.



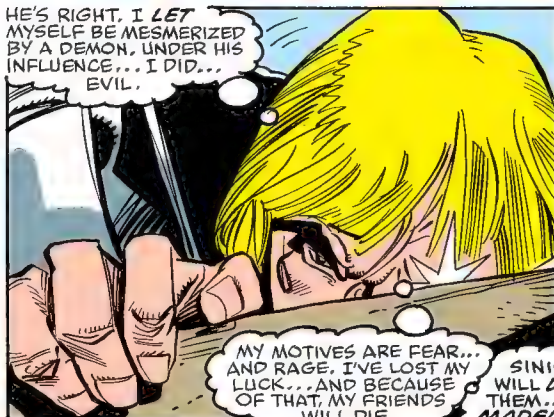
YOUR POWER, YOUR LUCK WON'T SAVE YOU... OR THEM.

HOW... DO YOU KNOW?



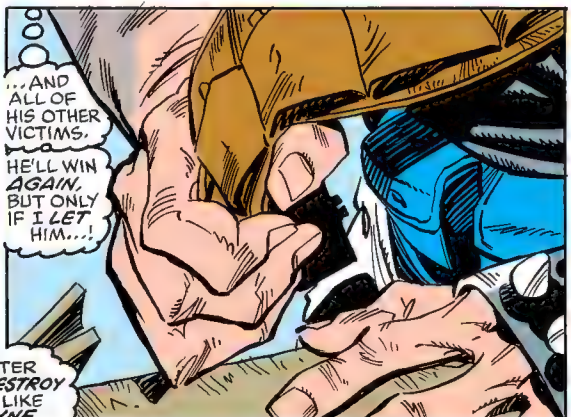
"KNOW THY ENEMY!" I'VE MADE A STUDY OF YOU ALL. I FEARED YOU ALL WERE DEAD...

...AND THAT I'D BE DENIED THE PLEASURE OF KILLING YOU MYSELF!



HE'S RIGHT. I LET MYSELF BE MESMERIZED BY A DEMON. UNDER HIS INFLUENCE... I DID... EVIL.

MY MOTIVES ARE FEAR... AND RAGE. I'VE LOST MY LUCK... AND BECAUSE OF THAT, MY FRIENDS WILL DIE.



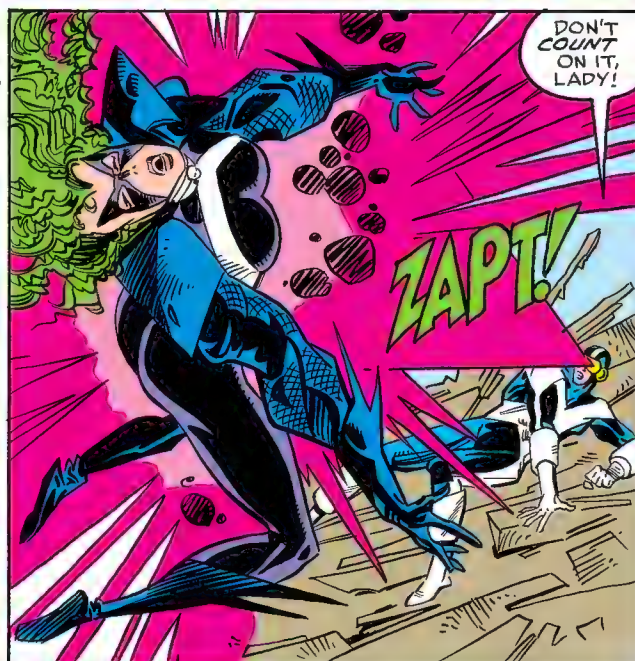
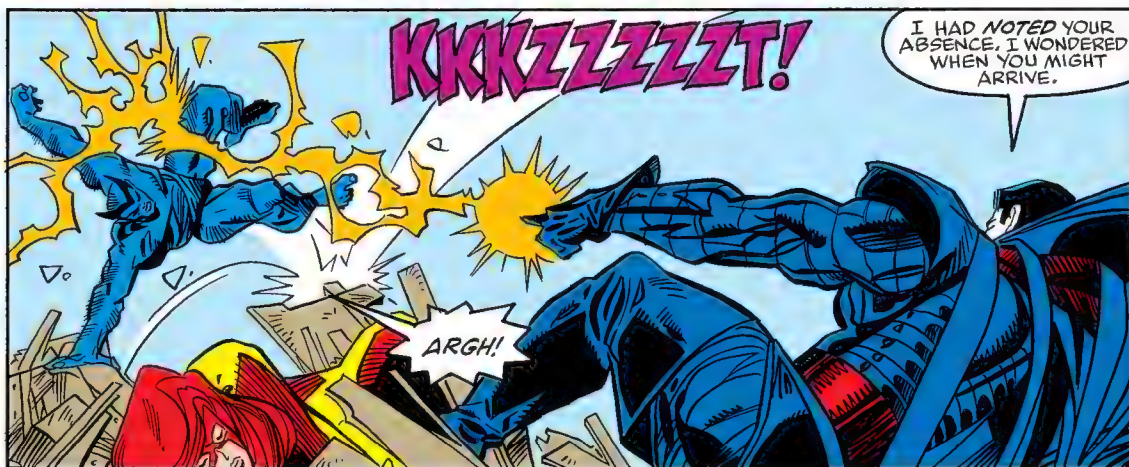
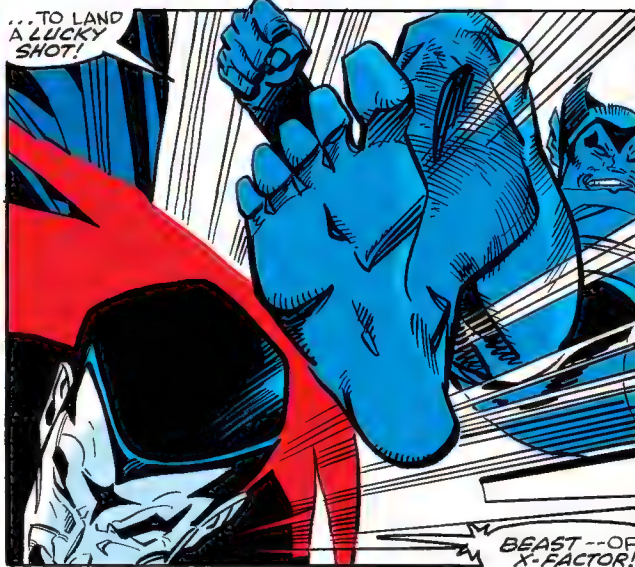
...AND ALL OF HIS OTHER VICTIMS. HE'LL WIN AGAIN, BUT ONLY IF I LET HIM...!

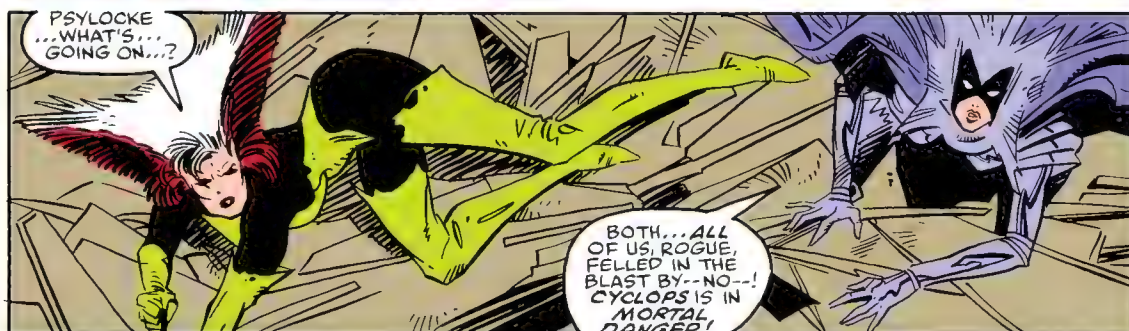
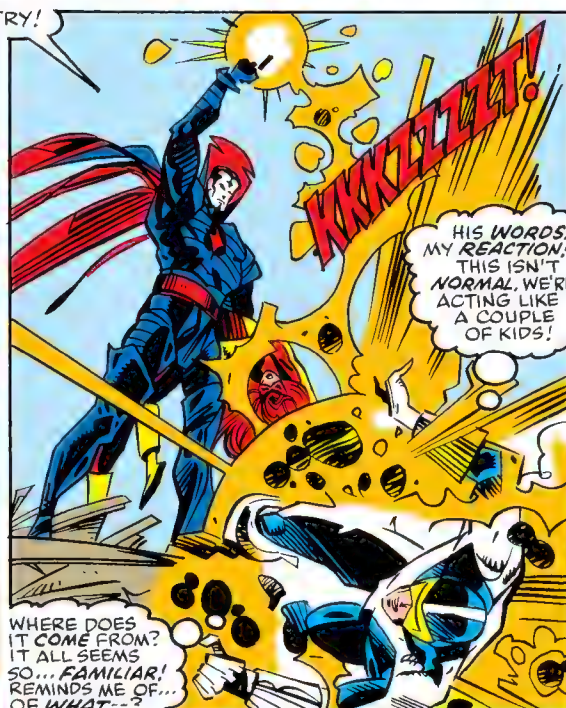
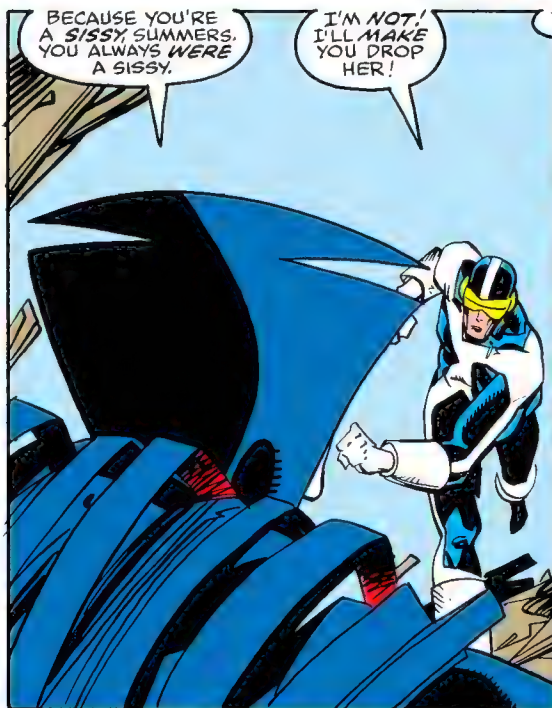
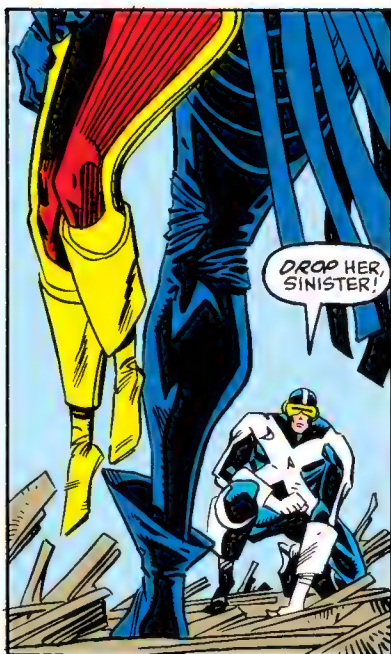
SINISTER WILL DESTROY THEM... LIKE MADELYNE...

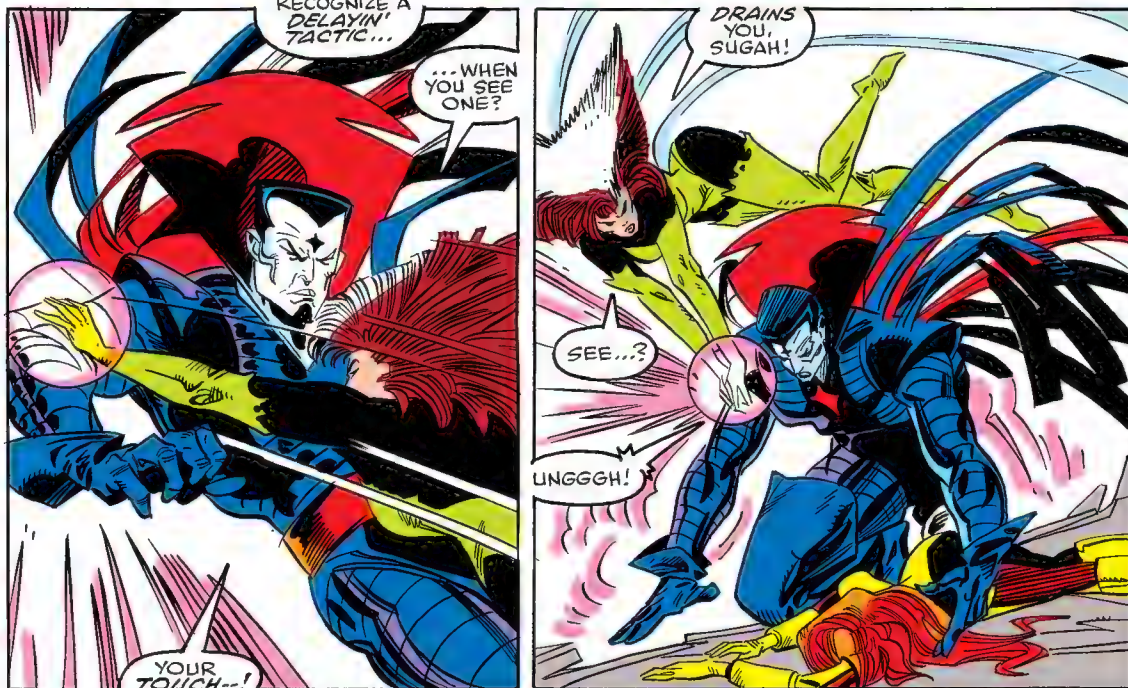
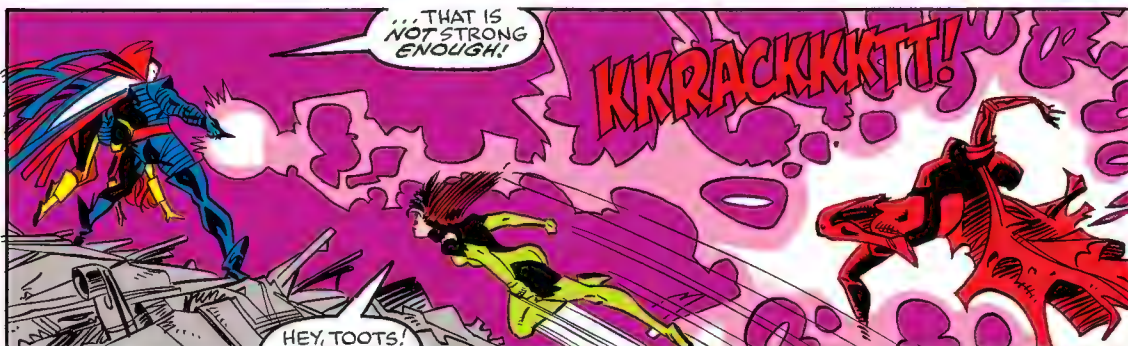
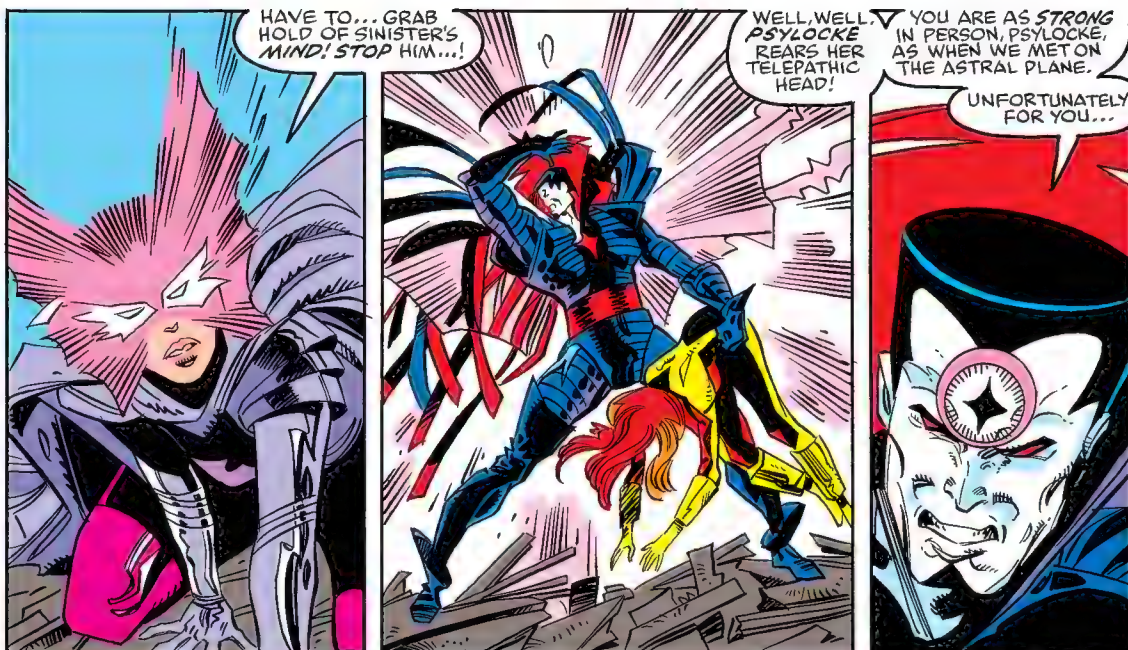


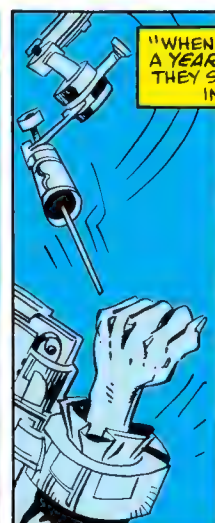
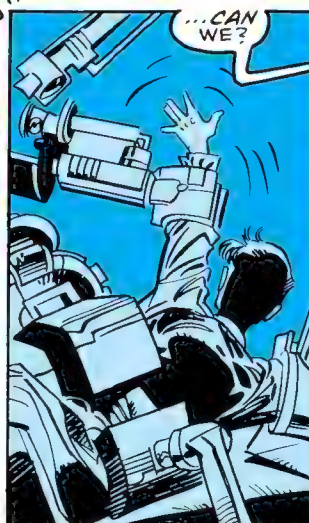
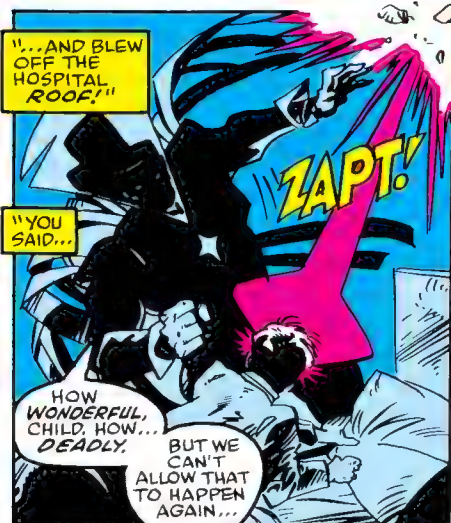
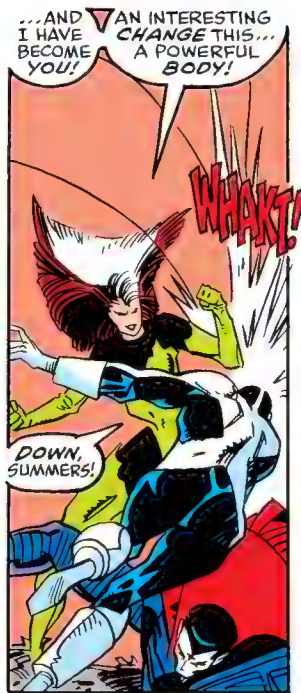
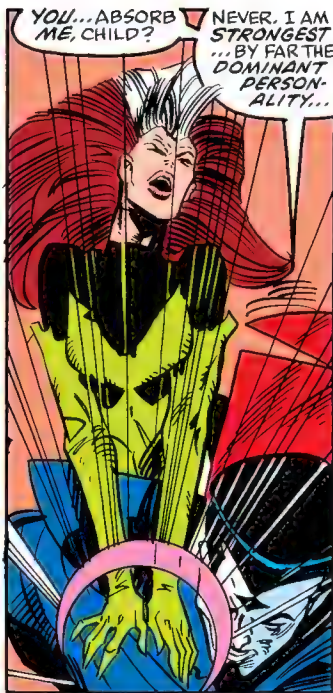
I CAN SAVE THEM!

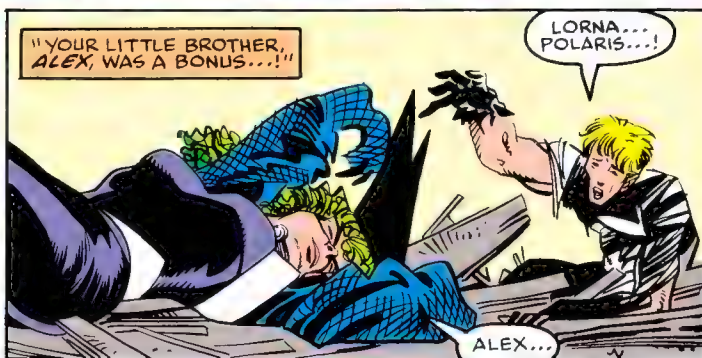
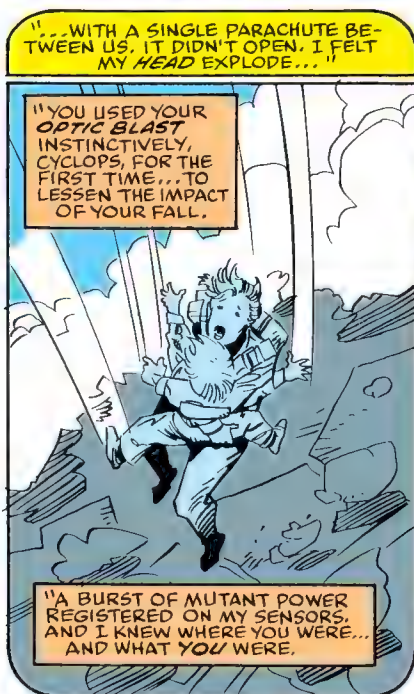
I MUST!

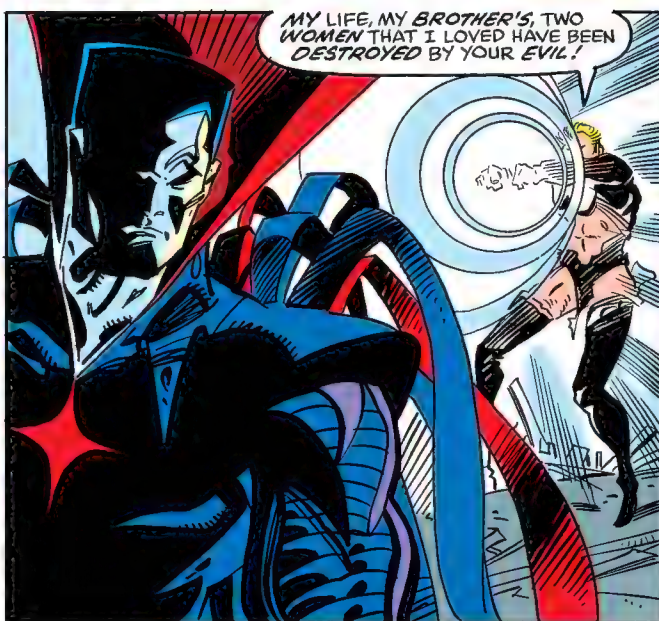
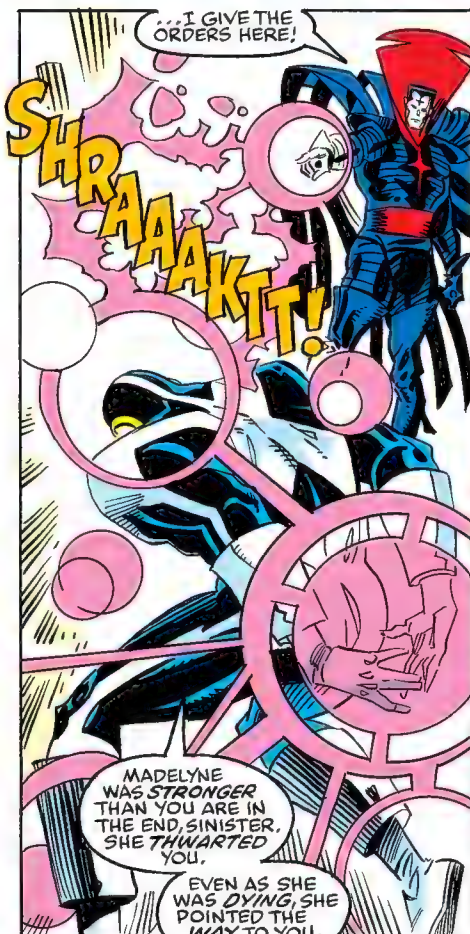
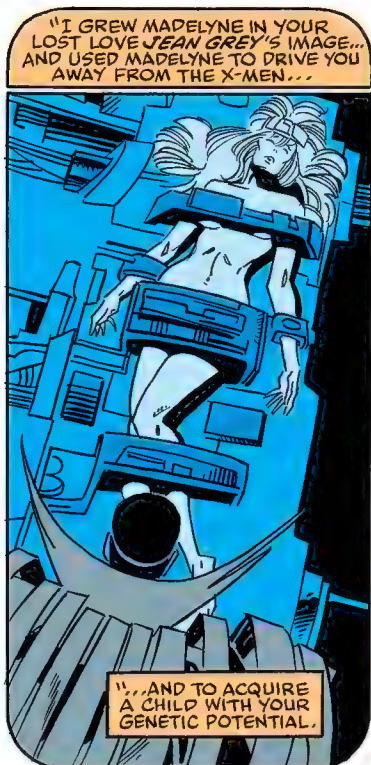










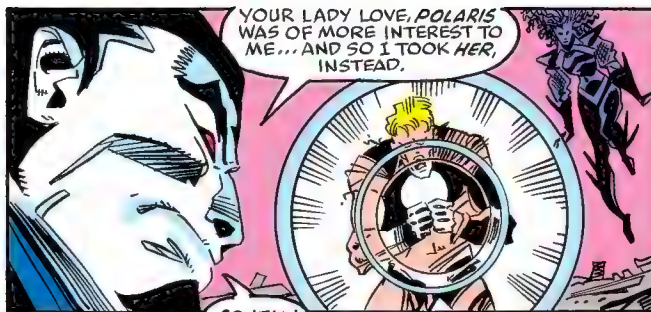




READ NOW, THE
DESTRUCTION
THAT YOU'VE
SOWN!

YOUNG ALEX!
OR SHOULD I
NOW CALL YOU
HAVOK!

I SENT YOU AWAY
... BUT AS YOU SEE
I COULD HAVE HAD
YOU BACK UNDER
MY POWER AT ANY
TIME. BUT I DIDN'T
WANT YOU.

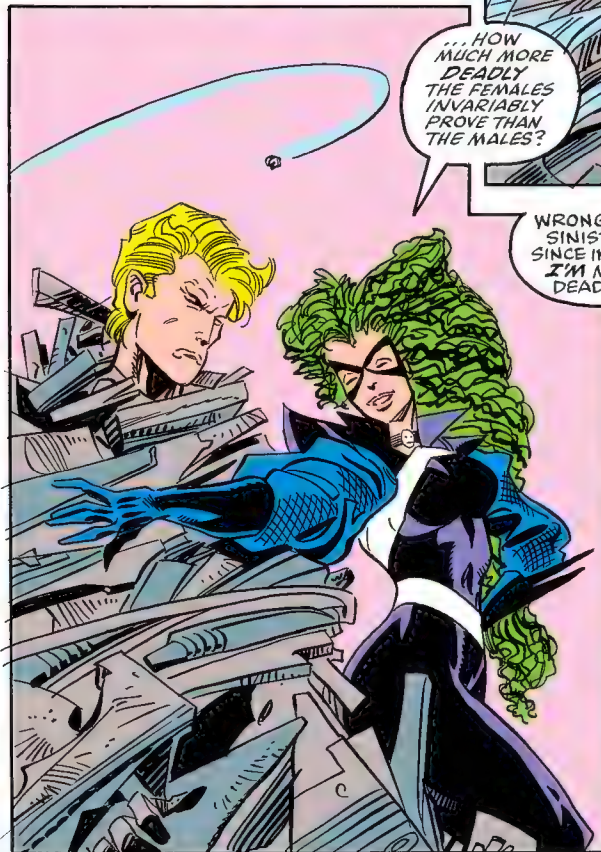


YOUR LADY LOVE, POLARIS
WAS OF MORE INTEREST TO
ME... AND SO I TOOK HER,
INSTEAD.

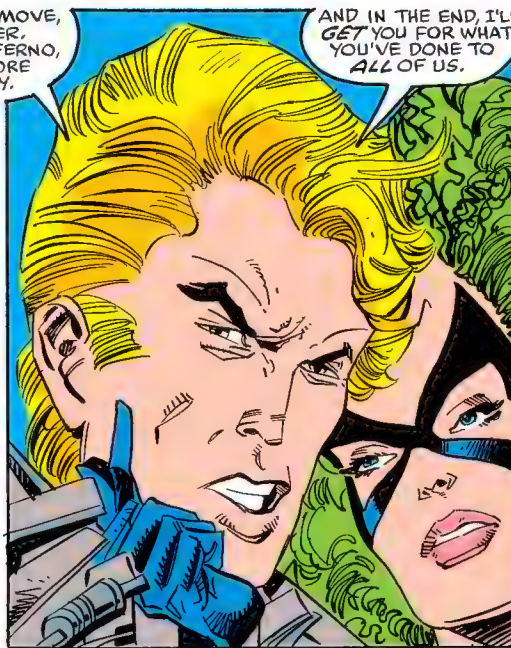
CONTAIN
HIM,
MALICE!



WONDERFUL,
ISN'T IT,
DARLING...

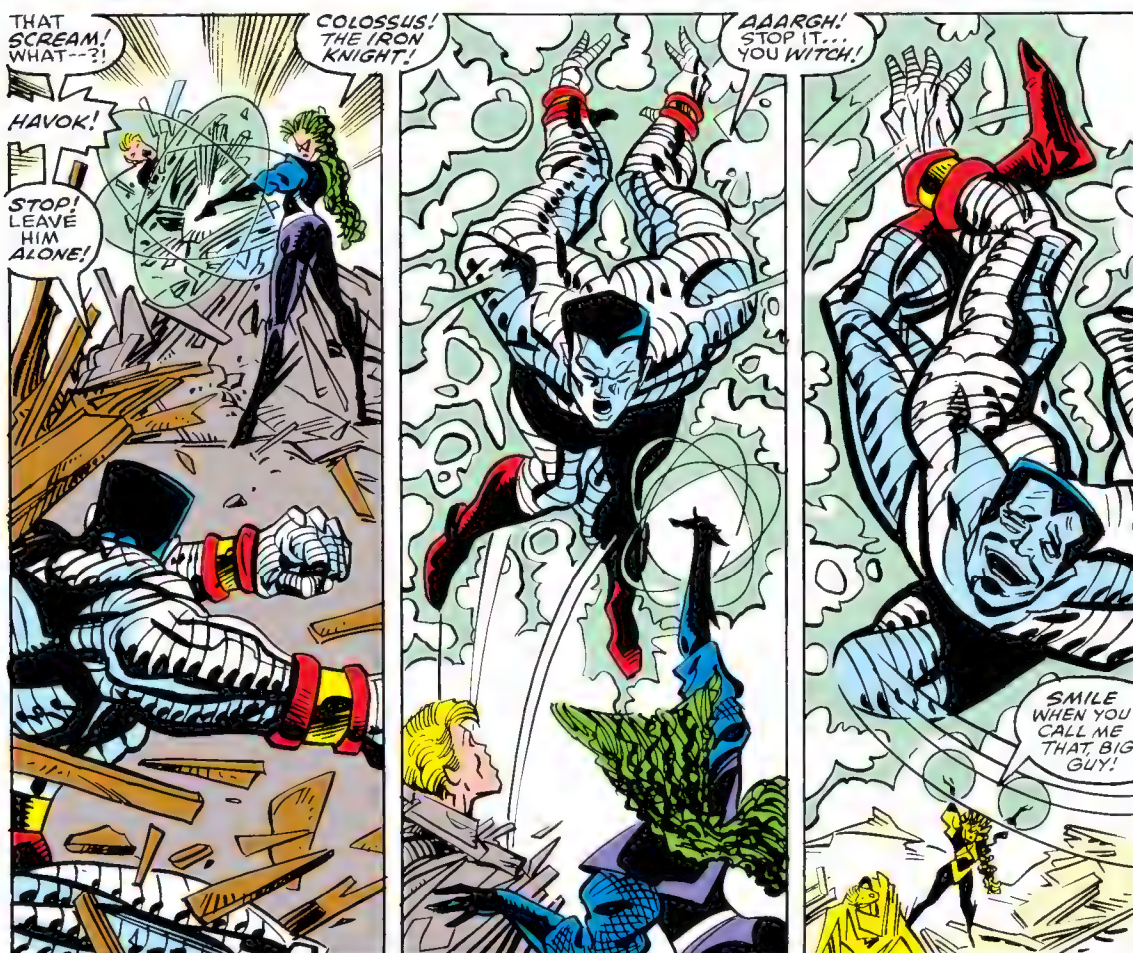
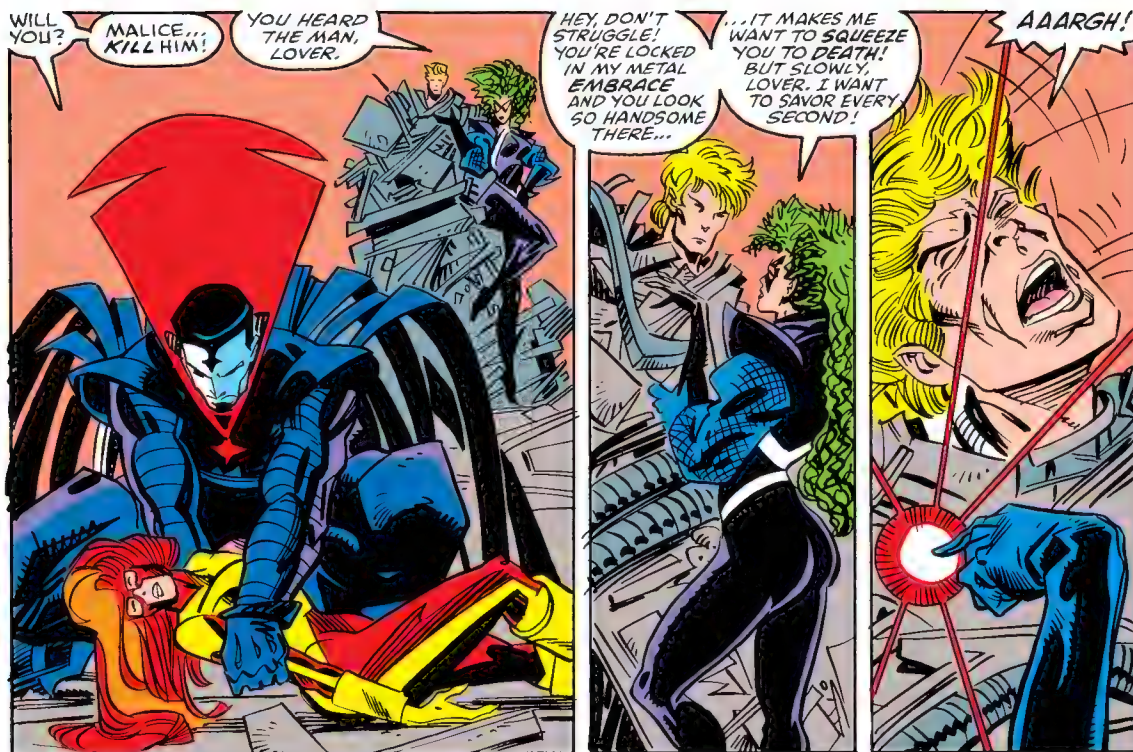


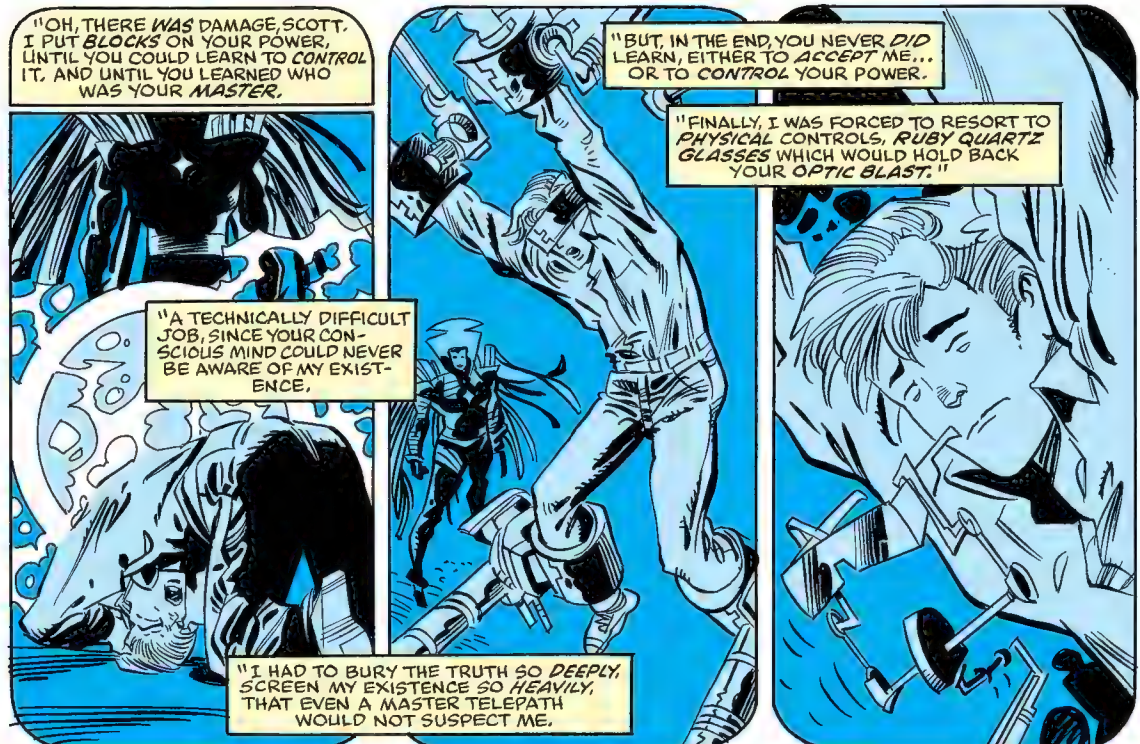
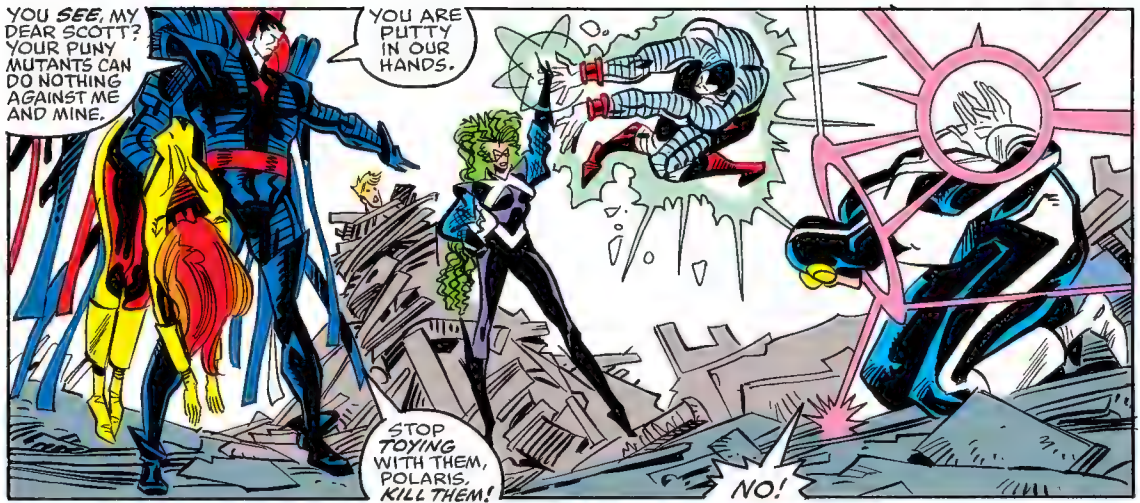
... HOW
MUCH MORE
DEADLY
THE FEMALES
INVARIABLY
PROVE THAN
THE MALES?



WRONG MOVE,
SINISTER,
SINCE INFERNO,
I'M MORE
DEADLY.

AND IN THE END, I'LL
GET YOU FOR WHAT
YOU'VE DONE TO
ALL OF US.









Locate X-Factor and the X-Men... and link us TELEPATHICALLY! We need to share impressions...

DONE! EXCEPT FOR CYCLOPS AND JEAN, I CAN'T GET THROUGH TO THEM.

CAN'T PROBE TOO HARD. HAVE TO BE CAREFUL.

SINISTER KNOWS US. HE'S STUDIED US! AND HE'S IMMENSELY POWERFUL.

HE SEEMS TO BE IMPERVIOUS TO OUR POWERS... AND ABLE TO COUNTER ANY ATTACK.

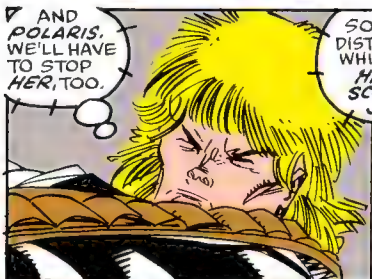
JEAN'S SAFETY MUST BE OUR FIRST CONCERN! SHE IS UNCONSCIOUS...

...AND SINISTER'S CAPTIVE. WE MUST FREE HER!

YEAH. HE CAN'T USE HIS OPTIC BLAST AGAINST SINISTER!

CYCLOPS IS UNDER SOME FORM OF MIND CONTROL.

SO WE'LL HAVE TO FIGHT SINISTER WITHOUT EITHER OF THEM!



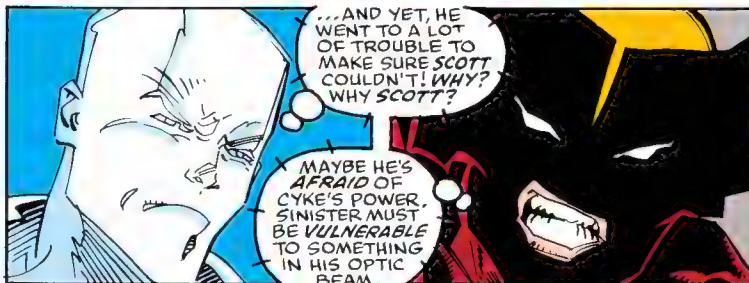
AND POLARIS. WE'LL HAVE TO STOP HER, TOO.

SO FIRST WE DISTRACT SINISTER, WHILE WE FREE HAVOK AND SCOTT AND JEAN!



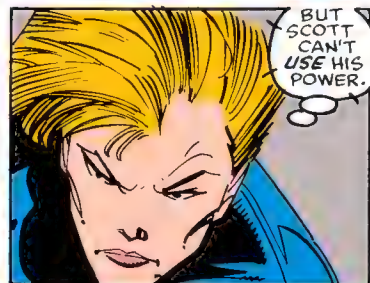
THEN USE OUR POWERS IN CONCERT TO DESTROY HIM!

WAIT! SINISTER'S IMPERVIOUS TO US... HE DOESN'T CARE IF WE ATTACK AT HIM...

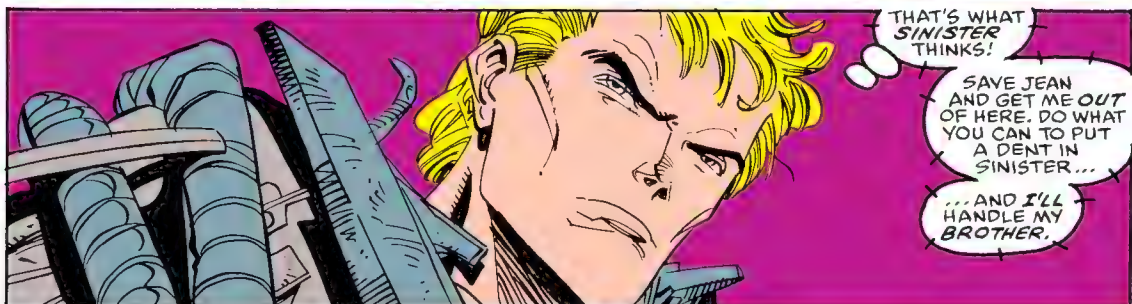


...AND YET, HE WENT TO A LOT OF TROUBLE TO MAKE SURE SCOTT COULDN'T! WHY? WHY SCOTT?

MAYBE HE'S AFRAID OF CYKE'S POWER. SINISTER MUST BE VULNERABLE TO SOMETHING IN HIS OPTIC BEAM.



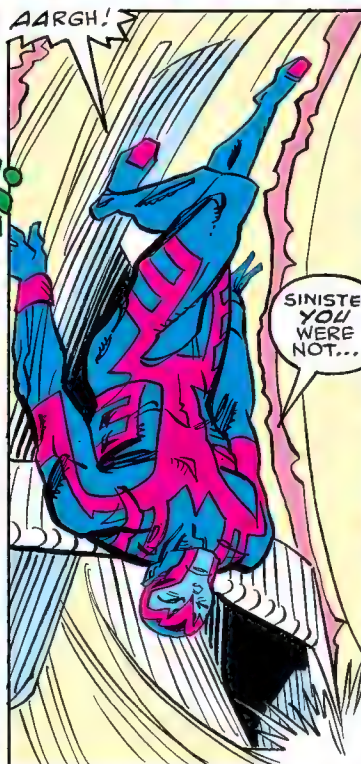
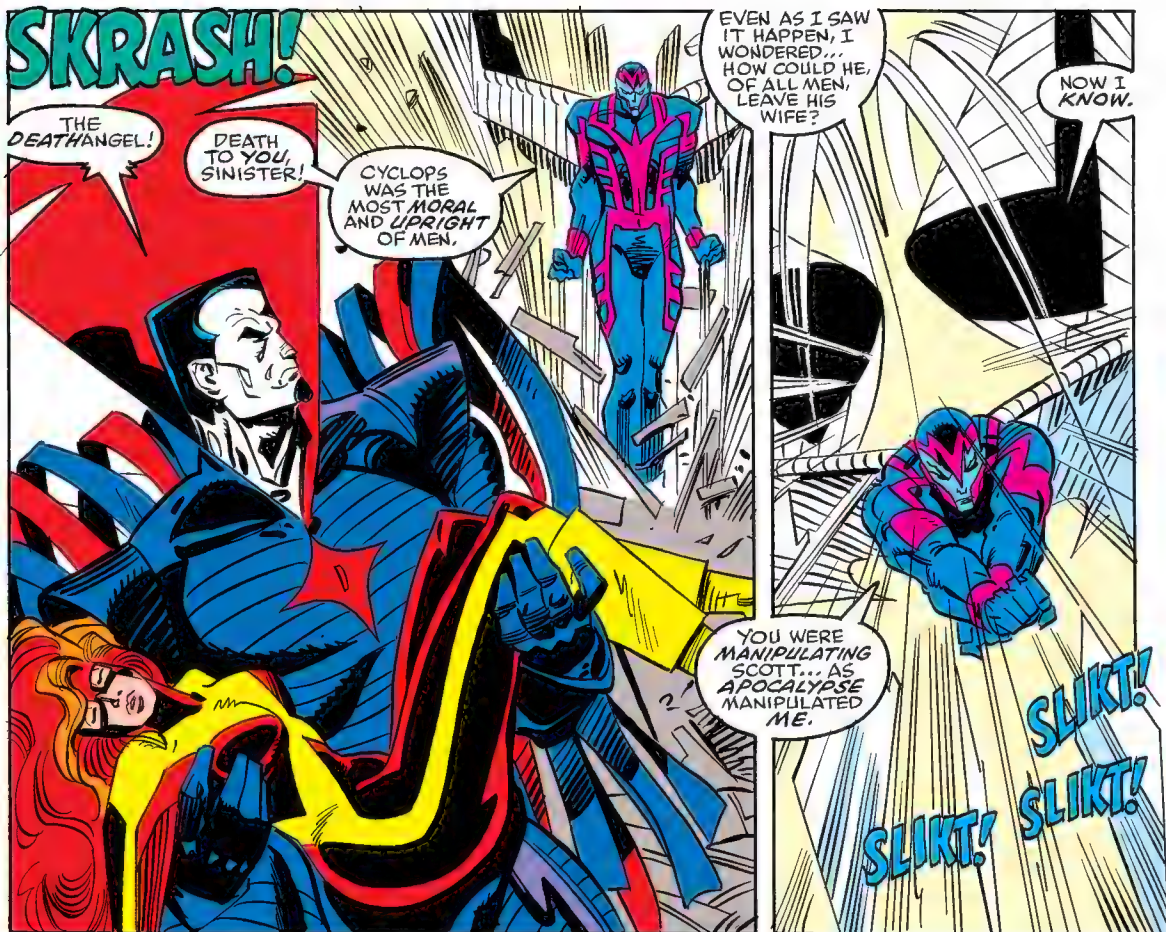
BUT SCOTT CAN'T USE HIS POWER.

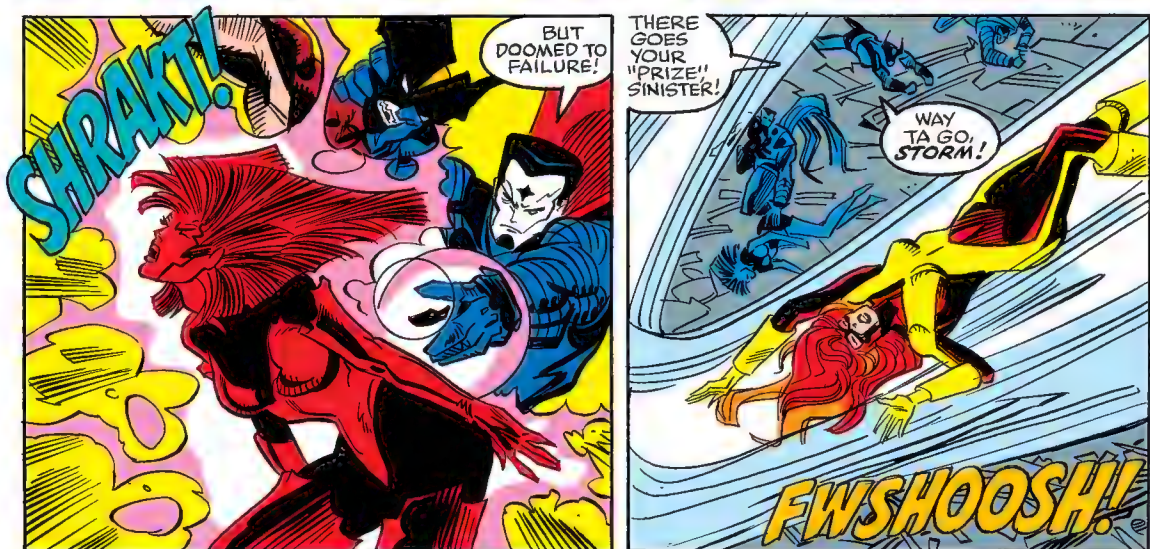
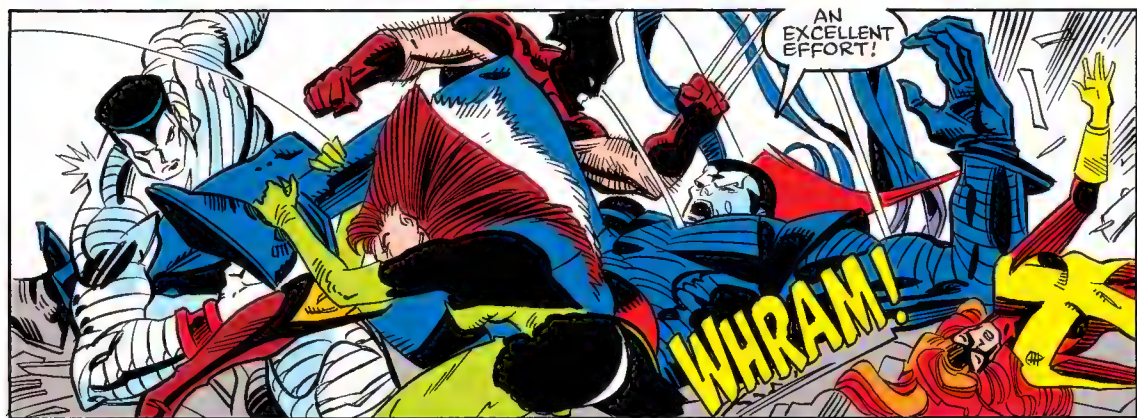
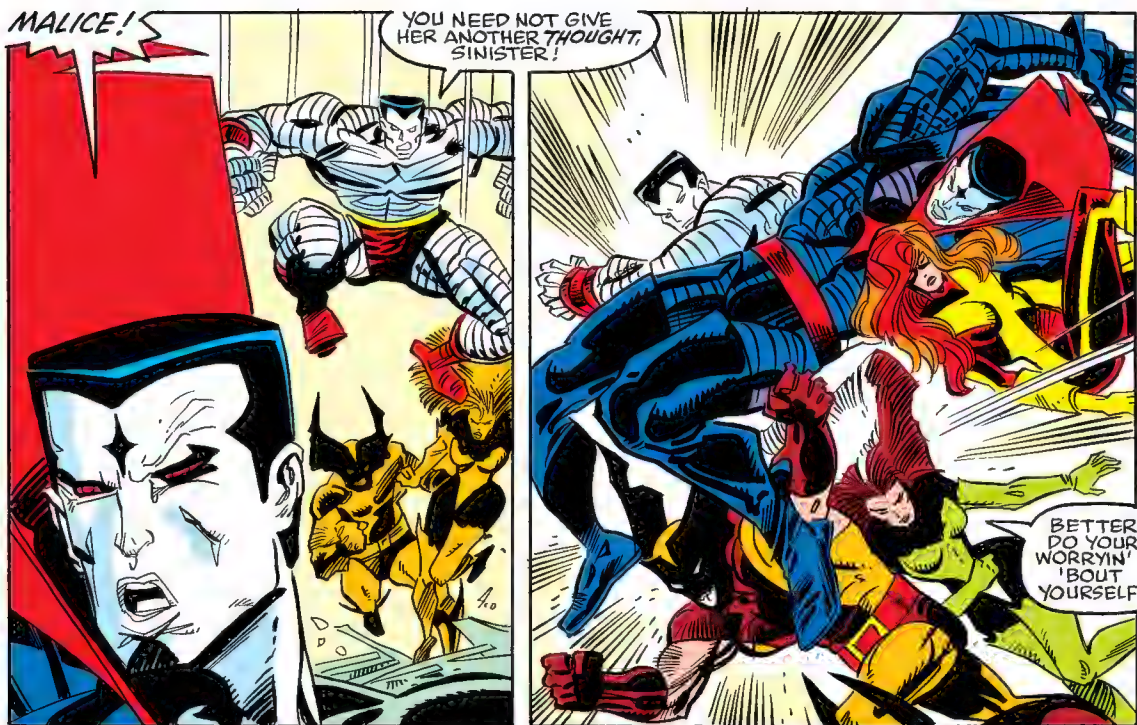


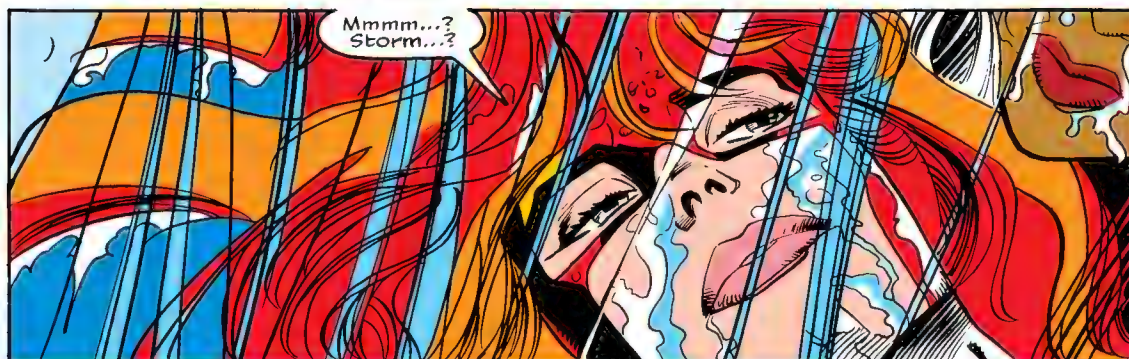
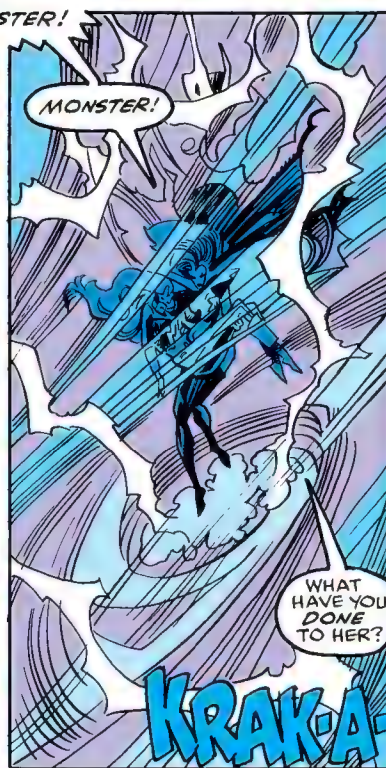
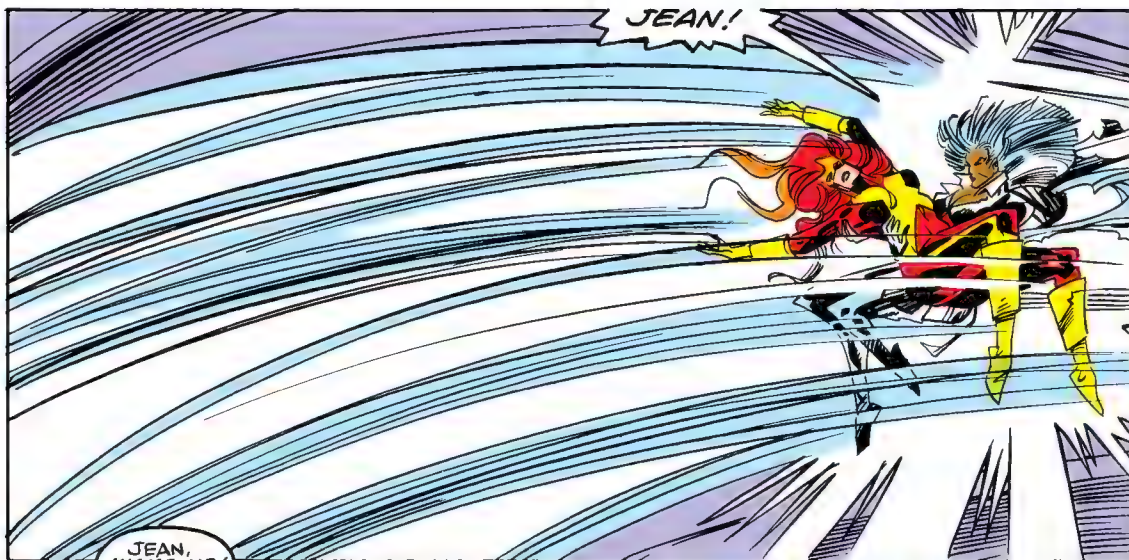
THAT'S WHAT SINISTER THINKS!

SAVE JEAN AND GET ME OUT OF HERE. DO WHAT YOU CAN TO PUT A DENT IN SINISTER...

...AND I'LL HANDLE MY BROTHER.









HURRICANE
FORCE WINDS
MAY **BUFFET**
ME...

...BUT
EVEN THE
FORCES OF
NATURE CAN
NOT PREVAIL
AGAINST MY
POWER!



STORM MAY BE
OVERREACTING...
JUST A BIT-- BUT
I'LL SAY **THIS**
FOR HER...

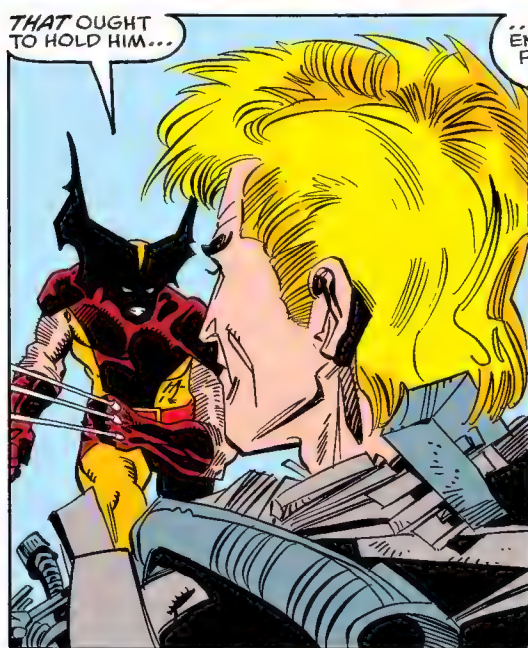
SHE'S PUT
MORE THAN
ENOUGH
MOISTURE
IN THE AIR...

CLIK!



...FOR ME
TO DO MY
THING!

SINISTER--
ON **ICE!**

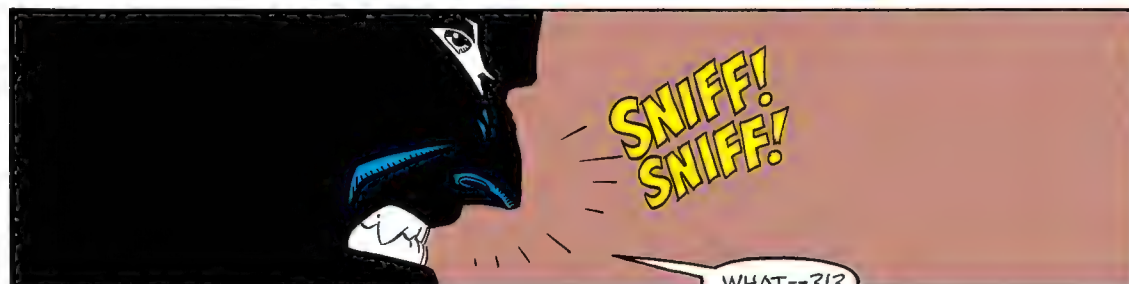


THAT OUGHT
TO HOLD HIM...

...LONG
ENOUGH
FOR ME
TA--

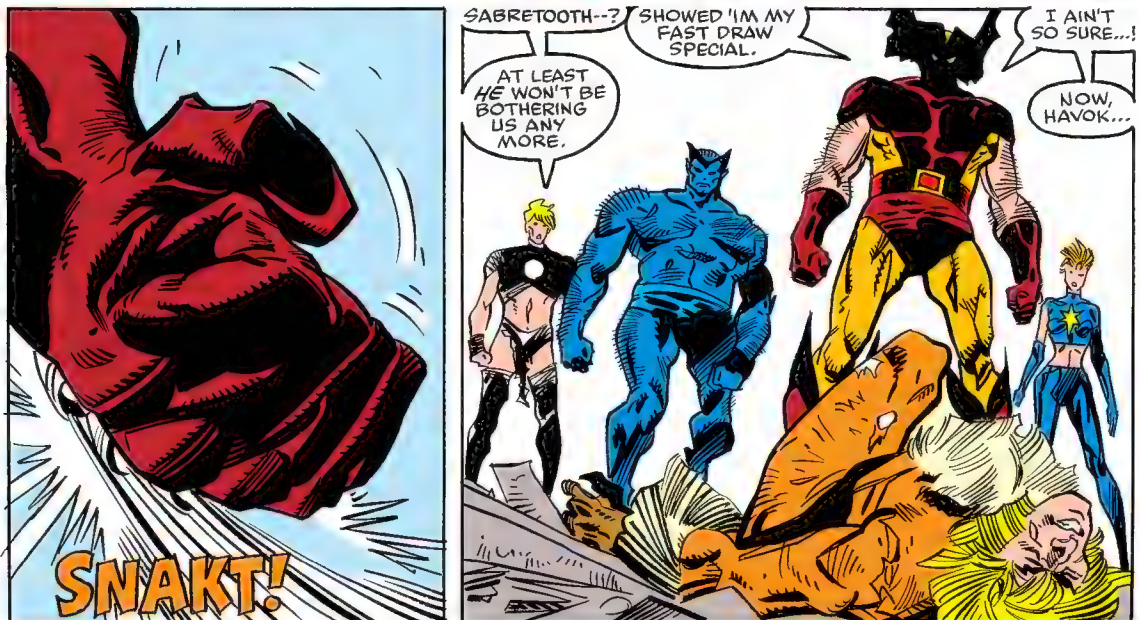
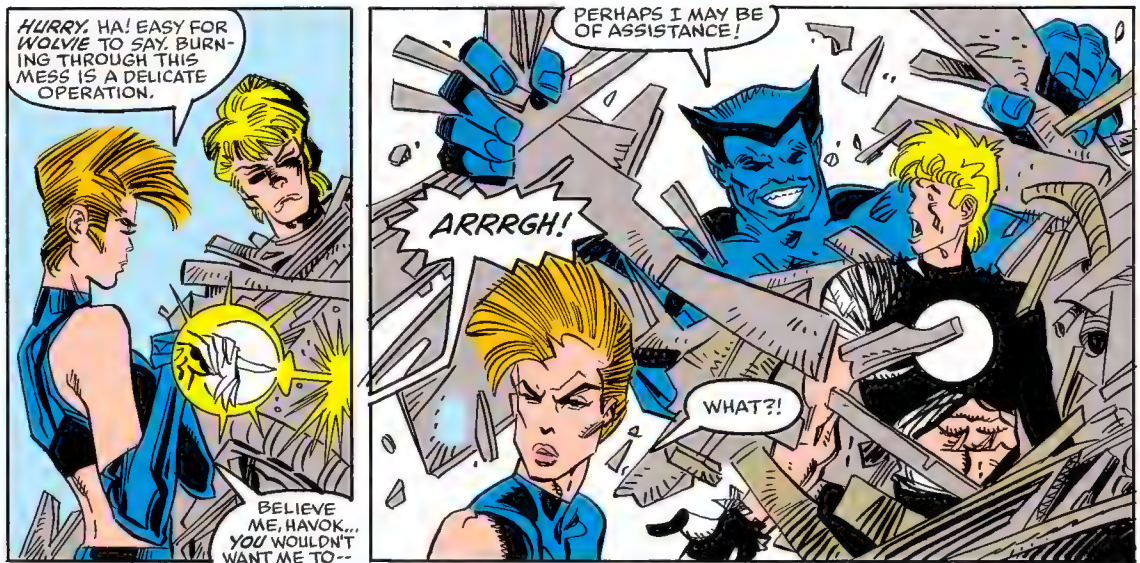
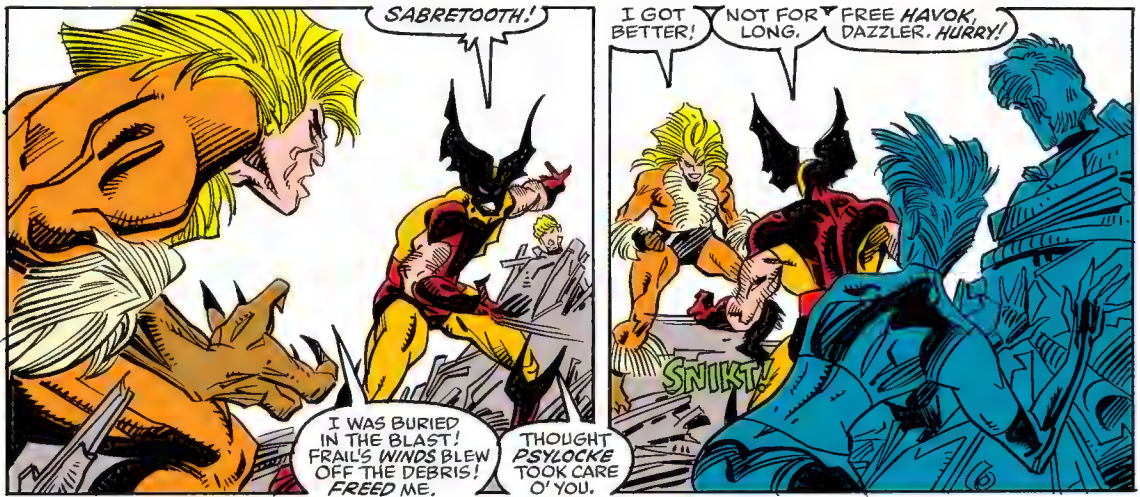


SLASH!



**SNIFF!
SNIFF!**

WHAT--?!?



"...DEAL WITH YOUR BROTHER."

WELL,
WELL...

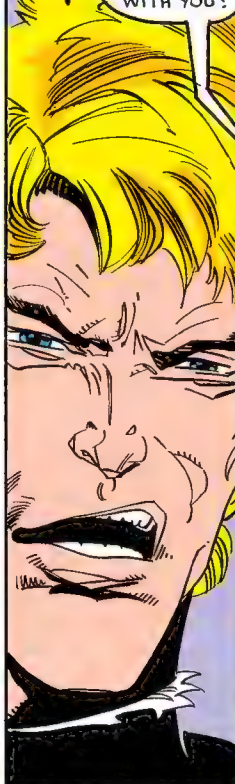
LOOK AT POOR SCOTT,
ALL HELPLESS! WHAT'S
THE MATTER, BROTHER
OF MINE?



DON'T YOU HAVE
ANY MORE *GIRLS*
TO PLAY WITH?
DID YOU RUN OUT
OF *REDHEADS*?

OR DID YOU JUST
RUN OUT ON THEM?

STOP IT,
ALEX! WHAT'S
THE MATTER
WITH YOU?



WITH *ME*? I'M NOT
THE PROBLEM! *SINISTER'S*
THE PROBLEM! LOOK
WHAT HE DID TO *MADELYNE*...
WANTS TO DO TO
US ALL.

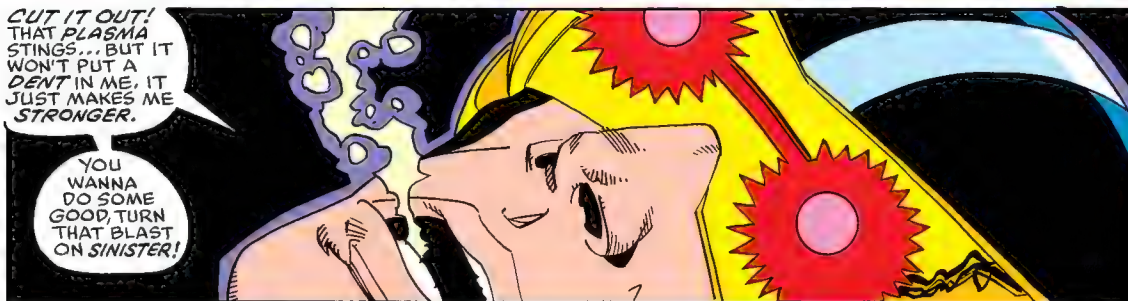
YOU COULD'VE
STOPPED HIM,
BRO. YOU COULD'VE
STOPPED A LOT
OF THINGS.



BUT YOU
DIDN'T, 'CAUSE
YOU'RE *SINISTER'S*
LITTLE PET! HIS
PUPPET! HIS
CHICKEN!

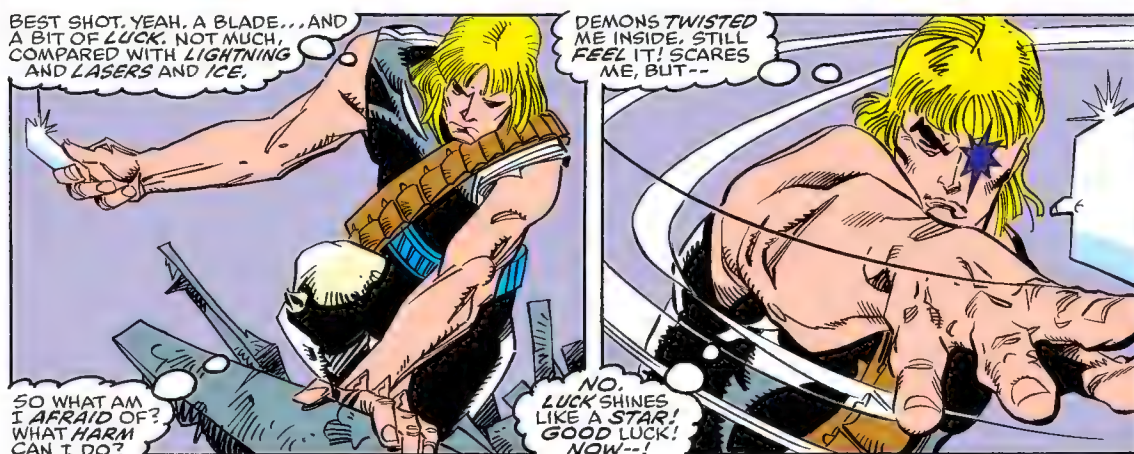
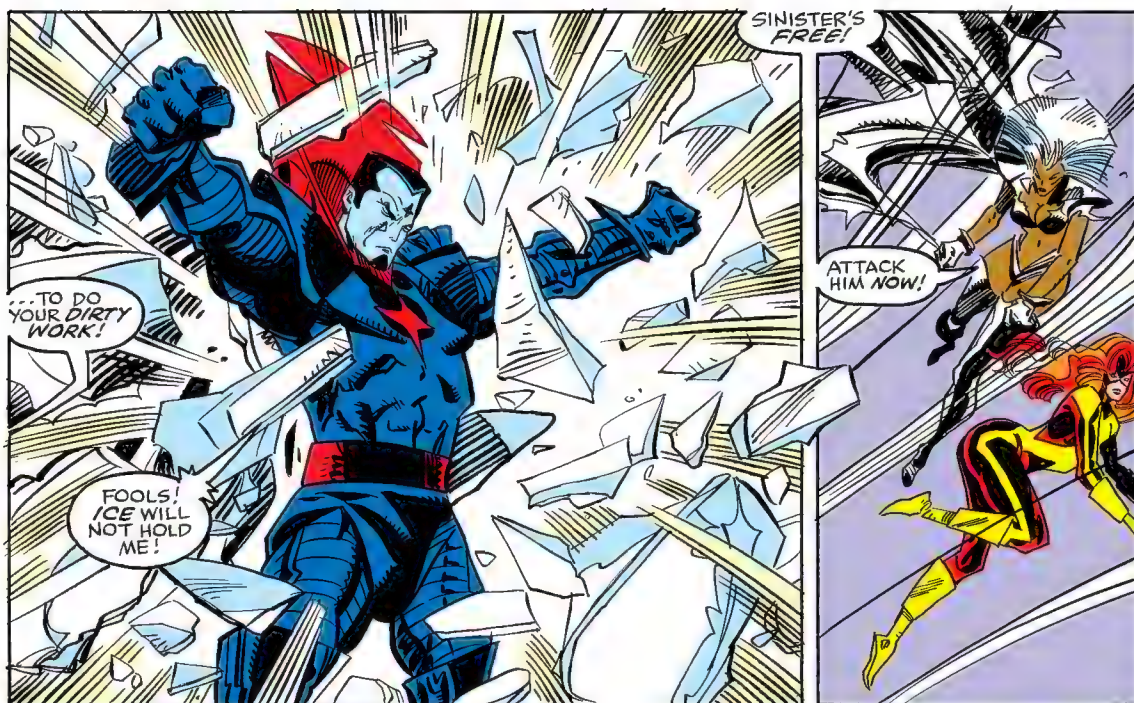
CUT IT OUT!
THAT *PLASMA*
STINGS... BUT IT
WON'T PUT A
DENT IN ME. IT
JUST MAKES ME
STRONGER.

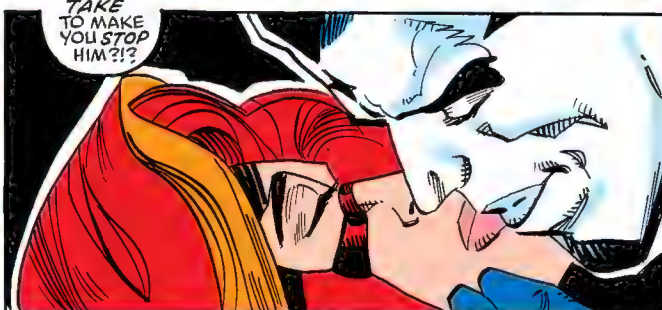
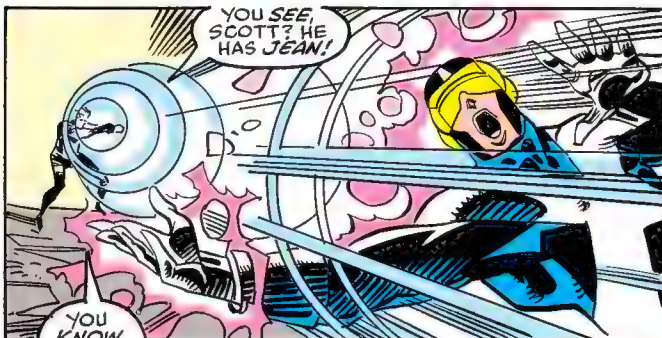
YOU
WANNA
DO SOME
GOOD, TURN
THAT BLAST
ON *SINISTER*!



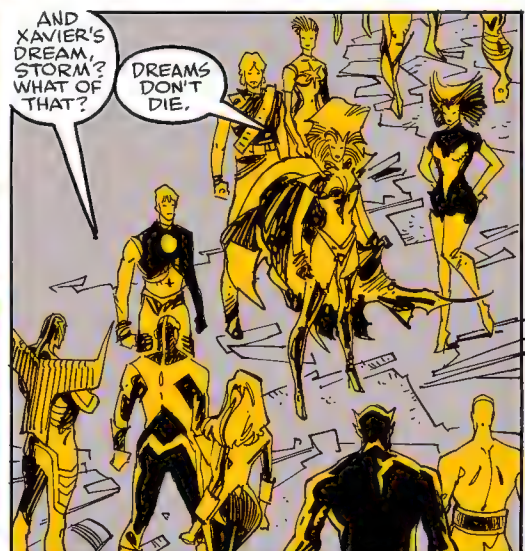
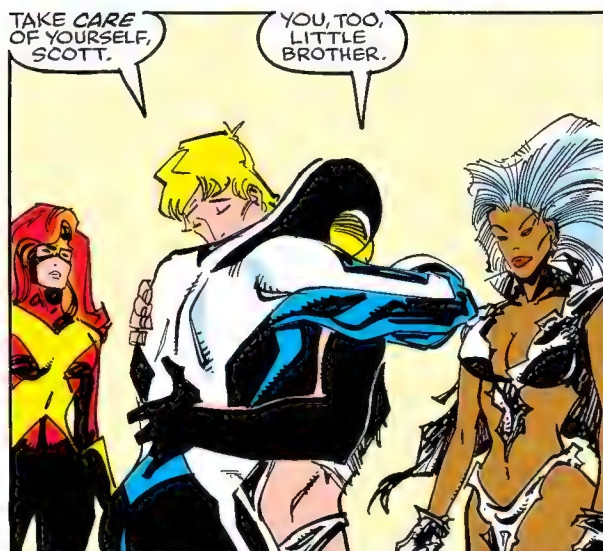
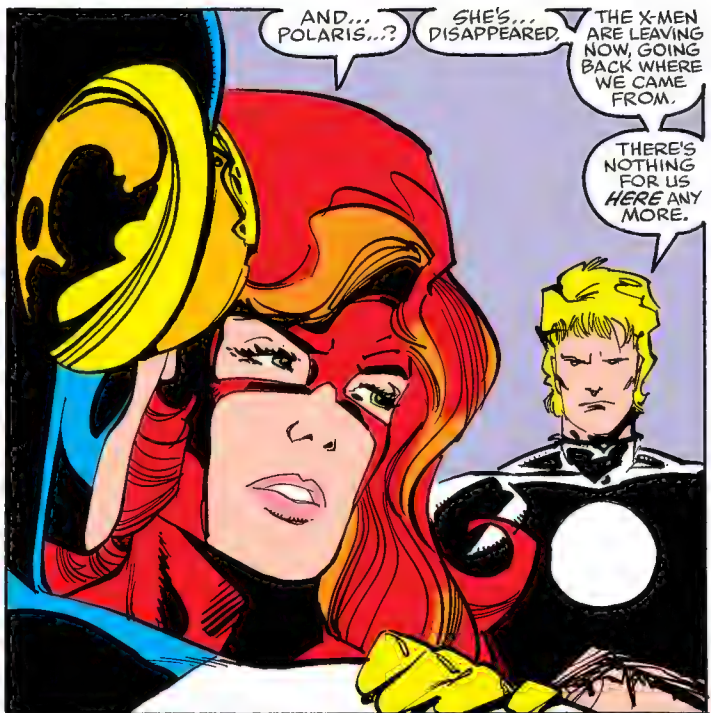
GOOD OLD SCOTT!
ALWAYS WANTING
SOMEONE ELSE...













BUT THE X-MEN AND X-FACTOR HAVE DIFFERENT ROLES TO PLAY...
...IN MAKING THAT DREAM COME TRUE.

THERE, LONGSHOT, YOU SEE? IT LOOKED LIKE BAD LUCK...

...BUT IF YOU HADN'T SUCKERED SINISTER, HE WOULDN'T HAVE HIT JEAN, AND SCOTT WOULDN'T HAVE...

YOU KNOW... EVER SINCE I CAME TO XAVIER'S, I FELT THERE WAS SOMETHING... WRONG WITH ME.

SOMETHING... TWISTED... BEYOND MY CONTROL.

THEY'RE... GONE.



IT DROVE ME... TO COMBAT IT. TO BE THE PERFECT LEADER. THE PERFECT HERO.

THEN MADELYNE CAME... AND I FAILED... IN EVERY WAY.

I KNOW, IT ALMOST DROVE YOU MAD.

EVENTUALLY, I BLAMED XAVIER. I THOUGHT HIS EARLY TRAINING HAD SOMEHOW... WARPED ME.

AND NOW YOU KNOW THE TRUTH.

YOU WERE A CHILD WHEN SINISTER TOOK YOU... DAMAGED YOU. YOU COULD HAVE GIVEN IN. LET HIM DESTROY YOU.

BUT YOU FOUGHT... SO HARD... TO BECOME WHAT YOU ARE. THE COURAGE IT MUST HAVE TAKEN...

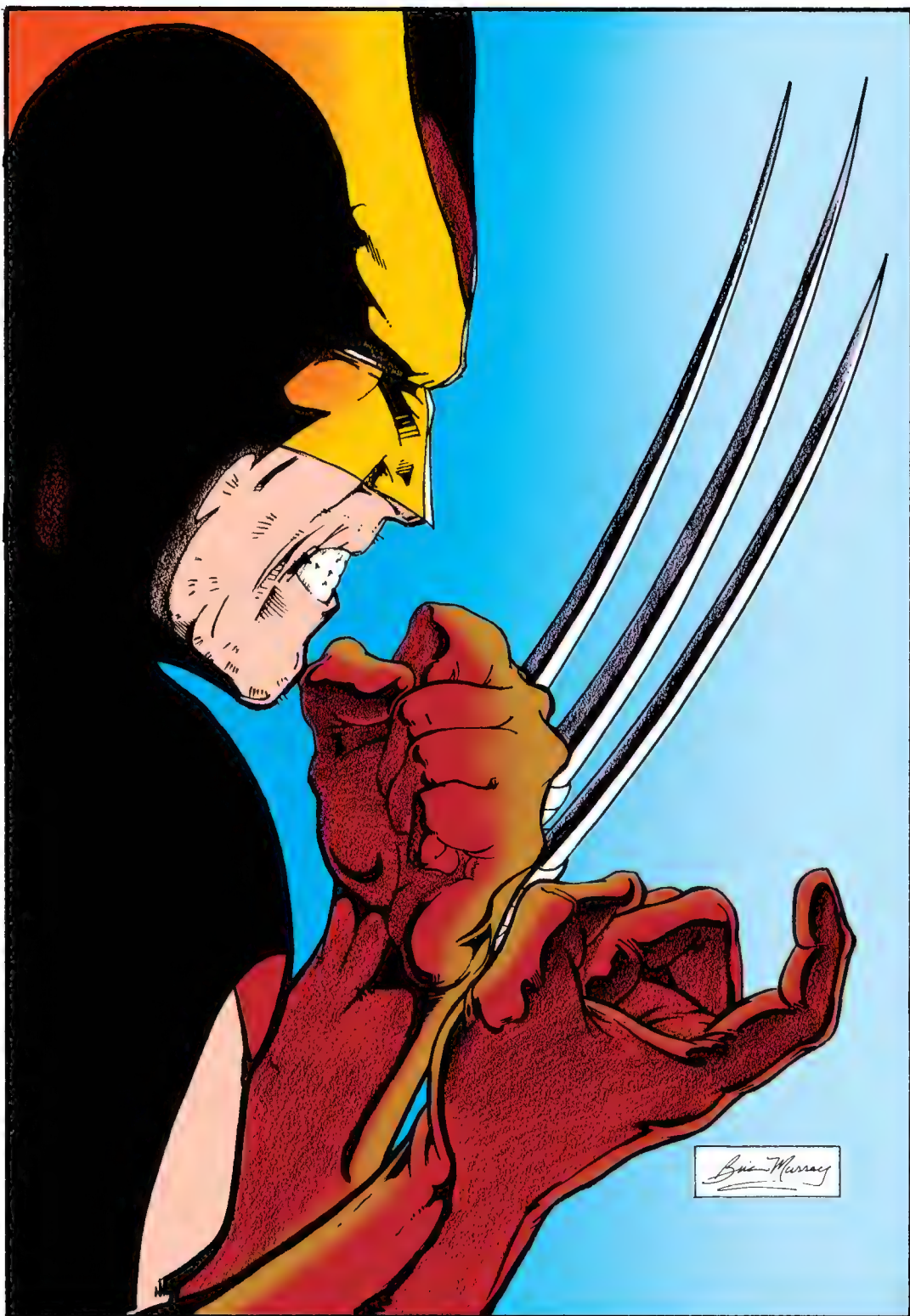
PROBABLY JUST TOO DUMB TO KNOW WHEN I'M LICKED.

THAT'S THE CYKE WE KNOW AND LOVE. WE SAVED LITTLE CHRISTOPHER. AND ALL THE OTHERS SINISTER WOULD HAVE DESTROYED.

IT'S A WHOLE NEW WORLD OUT THERE, X-FACTOR! LET'S MAKE THE MOST OF IT!

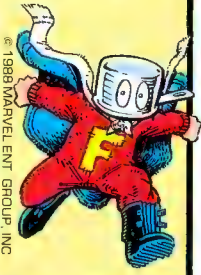
NANNY & The ORPHAN-MAKER in DUST TO DUST!

Marvel Fanfare #43 (April 1989) Wolverine pinup
by Brian Murray



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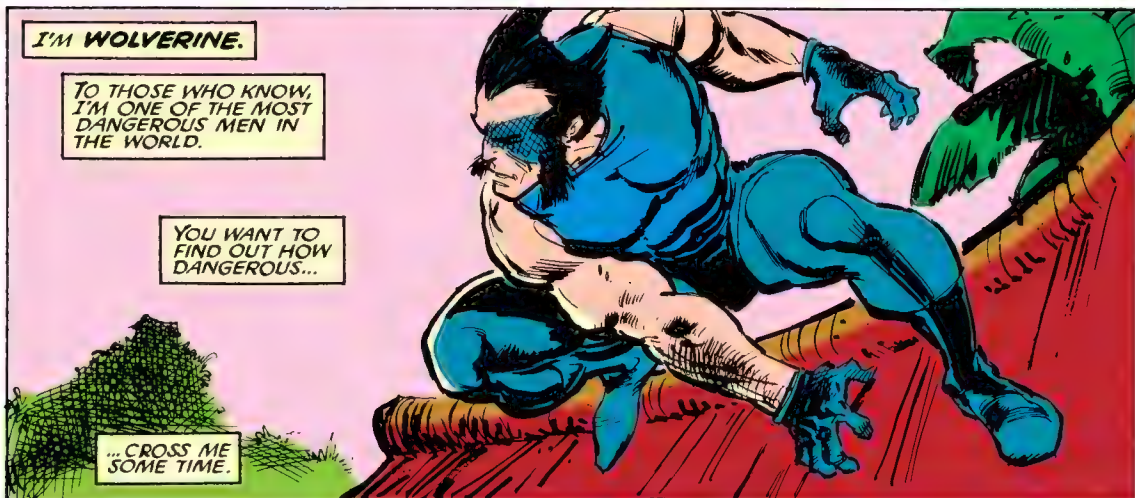
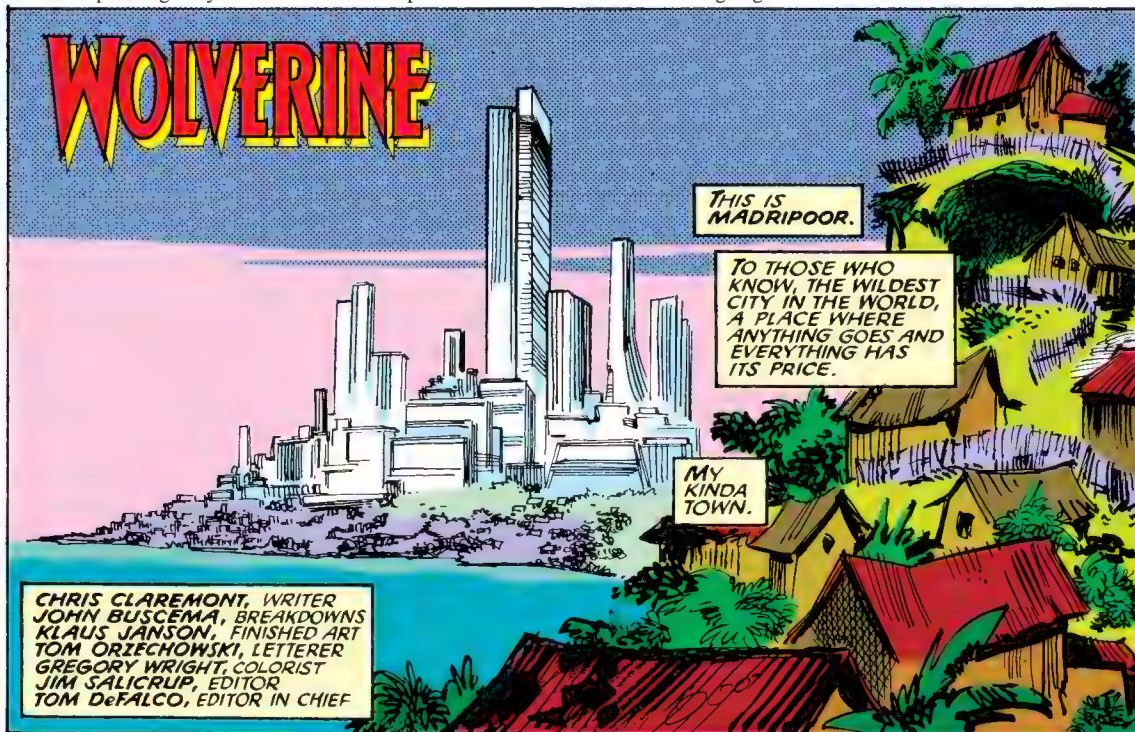
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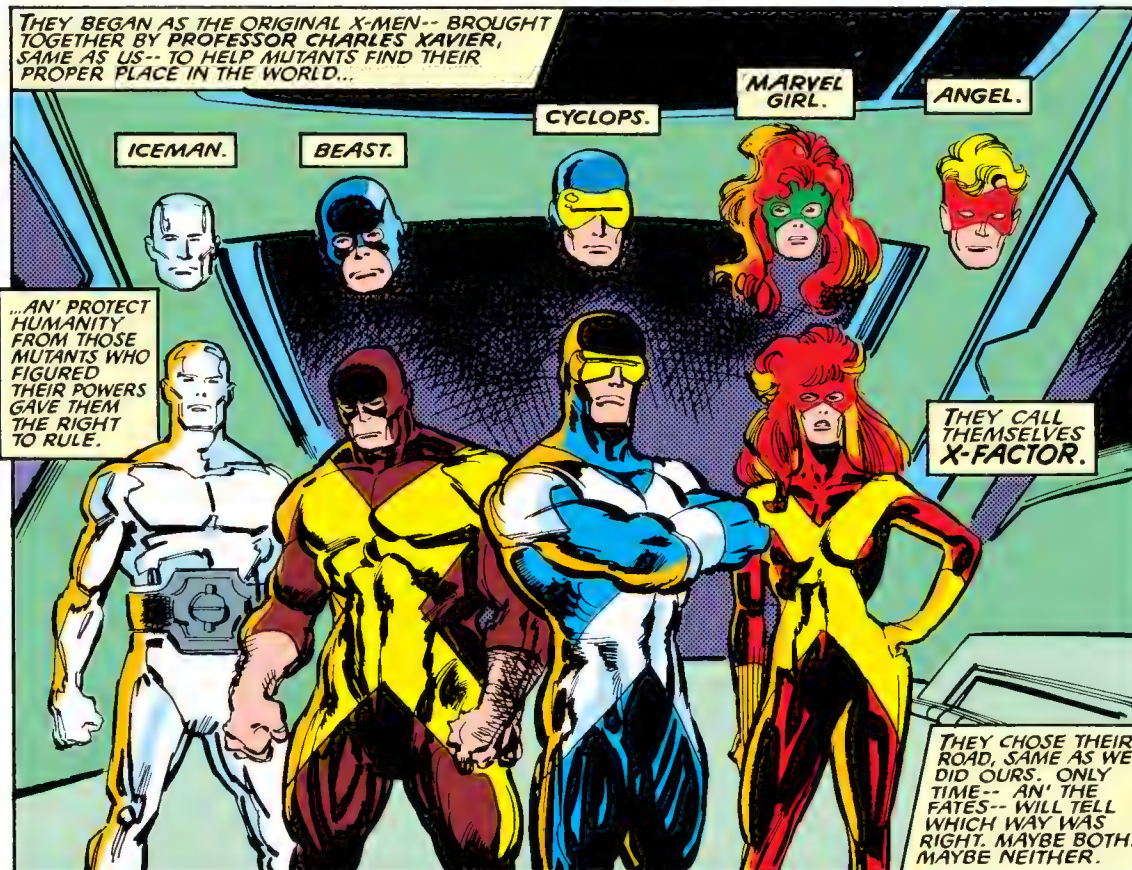
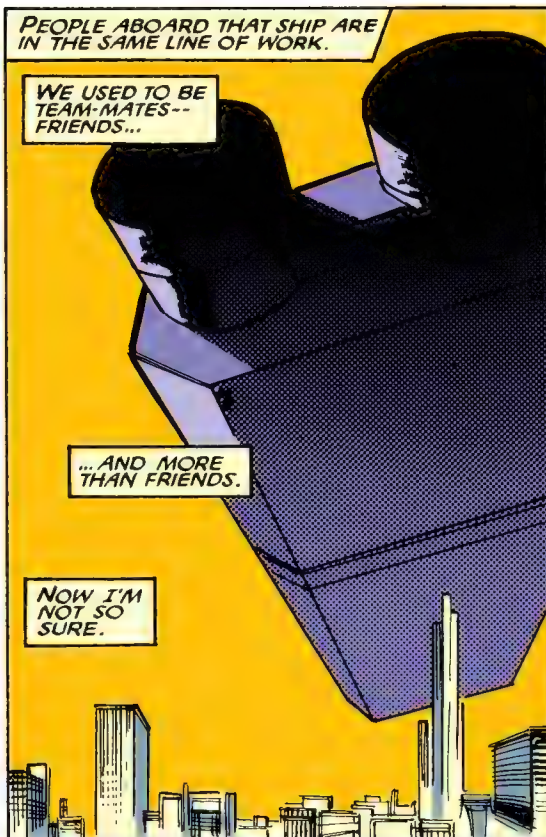
4 NEW 5-PAGE
PREVIEWS OF
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MARVEL AGE ANNUAL



SPECIAL BONUS: *Marvel Age Annual* #4 (1988) concluded the title's yearly tradition of interconnected stories or short features that hinted at upcoming storylines. This installment promotes both the solo *Wolverine* ongoing series and the *Inferno* crossover event.





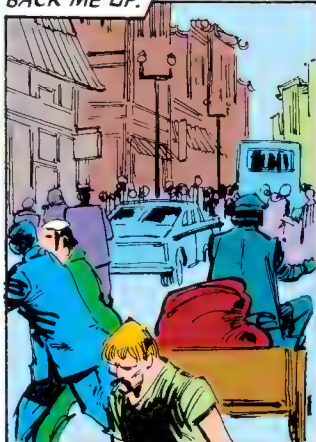
WHAT REALLY BOTHERS ME ABOUT THAT OUTFIT IS MARVEL GIRL-- JEAN GREY.

I KNOW HER SCENT AS WELL AS I DO MY OWN. I KNOW IT'S HER. TROUBLE IS, SHE'S SUPPOSED TO BE DEAD.



IN A SENSE, I COME HERE TO BE MYSELF.

TO LIVE AS CLOSE TO THE EDGE AS IT'S POSSIBLE TO GO, WHERE A MAN'S SURVIVAL IS DETERMINED BY STRENGTH AND SKILL AND SMARTS. THERE'S NO TEAM TO BACK ME UP.



THAT DOESN'T MEAN I DON'T HAVE FRIENDS. PLAYING SOLO DOESN'T MEAN PLAYING STUPID. THERE ARE PEOPLE I HELP, WHO IN TURN OCCASIONALLY HELP ME.

SUCH AS PRIVATE EYES JESSICA DREW AND LINDSAY MCCABE, RECENTLY ARRIVED FROM SAN FRANCISCO.



PROBLEM IS, THEY BOTH KNOW ME FROM THE OLD DAYS.

HEY, AMERICAN GIRLS-- YOU WANNA BUY STORIES...

...ABOUT THE X-MEN?!

CLASSIC STUFF. ALL THEIR ADVENTURES, RIGHT UP TO THE MOMENT THEY GOT KILLED IN DALLAS!



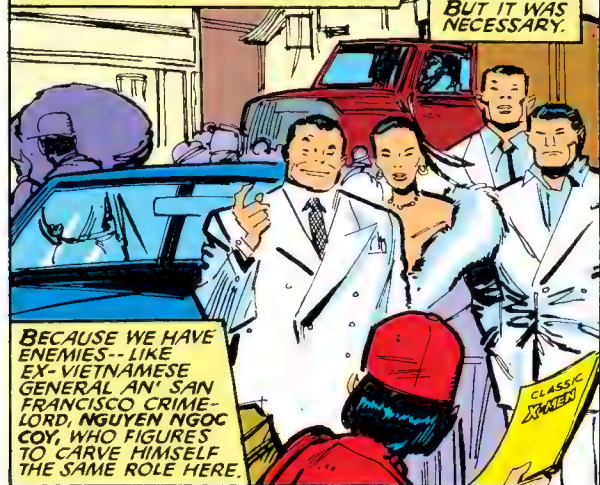
IN THIS TOWN, EVERYBODY HUSTLES. AN' NOTHIN'S SACRED.

BUT HE HAD ONE THING RIGHT-- INSOFAR AS THE WORLD'S CONCERNED, THE X-MEN ARE DEAD.



THE DECEPTION'S HARD ON FRIENDS AND FAMILY-- THERE'S NO WAY TO SAY 'SORRY' FOR THAT KIND OF HURT.

BUT IT WAS NECESSARY.



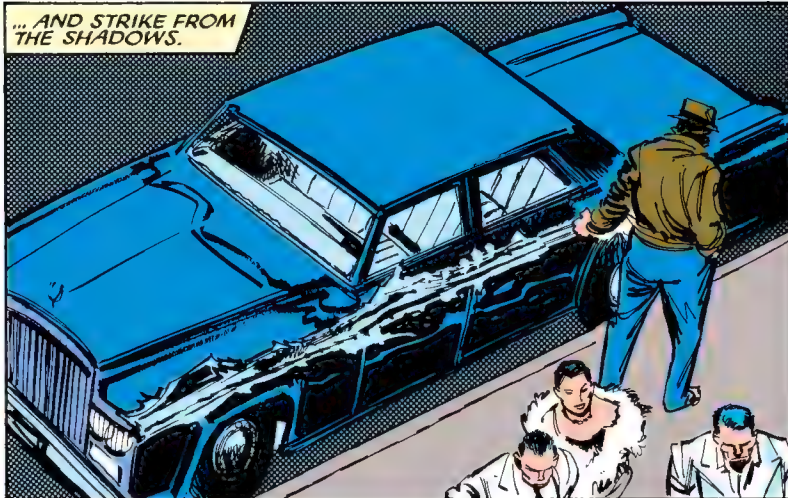
WHILE WE LIVED, THOSE ENEMIES COULD STRIKE AT US THROUGH THOSE WE CARED FOR.

THE STAKES WERE GETTIN' TOO HIGH, THE POTENTIAL LOSS TOO GREAT--

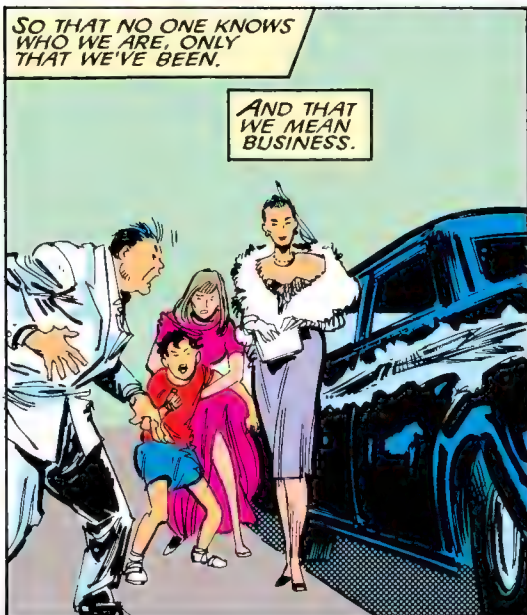




BETTER INSTEAD
TO VANISH FROM
THE SCENE...

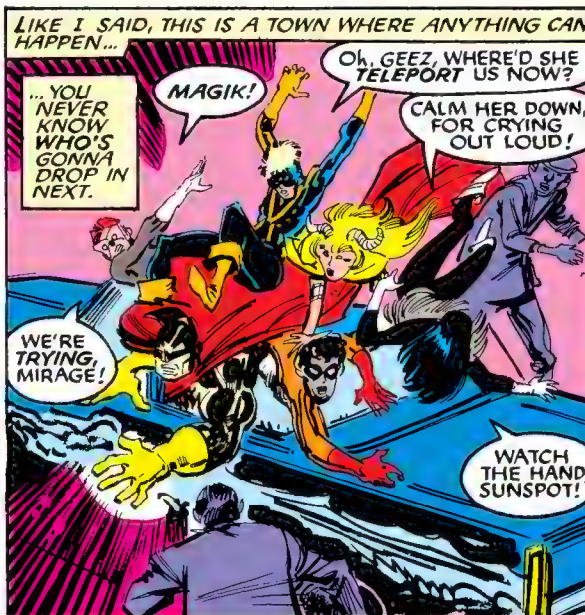


... AND STRIKE FROM
THE SHADOWS.



SO THAT NO ONE KNOWS
WHO WE ARE, ONLY
THAT WE'VE BEEN.

AND THAT
WE MEAN
BUSINESS.



LIKE I SAID, THIS IS A TOWN WHERE ANYTHING CAN
HAPPEN...

... YOU
NEVER
KNOW
WHO'S
GONNA
DROP IN
NEXT.

MAGIK!

Oh, GEEZ, WHERE'D SHE
TELEPORT US NOW?

CALM HER DOWN,
FOR CRYING
OUT LOUD!

WE'RE
TRYING,
MIRAGE!

WATCH
THE HAND,
SUNSPOT!



YOU CAN'T RUN ANY LONGER,
MAGIC, WE WON'T LET YOU!

YOU HEARD DESTINY'S
PREDICTION, I'M GOING TO
IGNITE THE **INFERNO**
THAT ENDS THE WORLD!

HAVING A
KING-SIZE
HISSY-FIT TANTRUM WON'T
CHANGE THAT! WE'RE THE
NEW MUTANTS!



WITH THE X-MEN
GONE, WE'VE GOT
NO ONE TO TURN
TO. WE CAN
TRUST BUT
OURSELVES.

IF THE
WORLD'S IN
DANGER, IT'S
UP TO US TO
SAVE IT.

IF THAT'S
EVEN
POSSIBLE.

THE X-MEN
TRIED, RIGHT
TO THE END,
CAN WE DO
ANY LESS?



MAGIK! MAGIK!!
IT'S ME, SHADOWCAT--
WAIT, PLEASE, DON'T GO--
oh, BOTHER!



BETTER LUCK
NEXT TIME,
KATZCHEN.

NIGHTCRAWLER,
IF SOMETHING'S
WRONG-- AND
IT'S SERIOUS--

--WE
SHOULD
HELP! ISN'T
THAT WHY
WE FORMED
EXCALIBUR?!

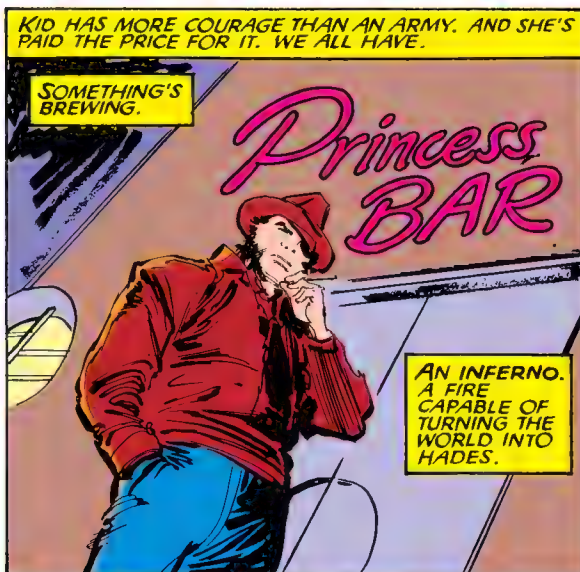


YOU CAN'T HELP
PEOPLE WHO DON'T
WANT IT. AND,
SADLY, SOME PEOPLE--
SOMETIMES-- HAVE TO
LEARN THE HARD WAY
WHEN TO SWALLOW
THEIR PRIDE...

...AND
ASK.

WHETHER THEY DO
OR NOT-- WHETHER
THEY WANT US OR
NOT-- WE'RE GONNA
BE THERE.

IT'S OUR WORLD,
TOO. AND OUR
RESPONSIBILITY
TO HELP. RIGHT,
GUYS?



SOMETHING'S
BREWING.

*Princess
BAR*

AN INFERNO.
A FIRE
CAPABLE OF
TURNING THE
WORLD INTO
HADES.



SO WE'LL
PUT IT
OUT.

THAT'S PART OF THE REASON
WE CHOSE TO DIE, TO MAKE
SURE THOSE OTHERS WOULD
NEVER HAVE TO.

X-FACTOR, THE NEW
MUTANTS, EXCALIBUR--
THEY ALL HAVE THEIR
PLACE, THEIR ROLE.

BUT IN
THE END,
THEY'RE
ONLY
HEROES.



WE'RE
LEGENDS.

WE'RE-- THE
X-MEN!

DON'T MISS THE FIRST ISSUE OF **WOLVERINE**---ON SALE SOON!

Marvel Press Poster #52 – Wolverine (1988)
by Kent Williams

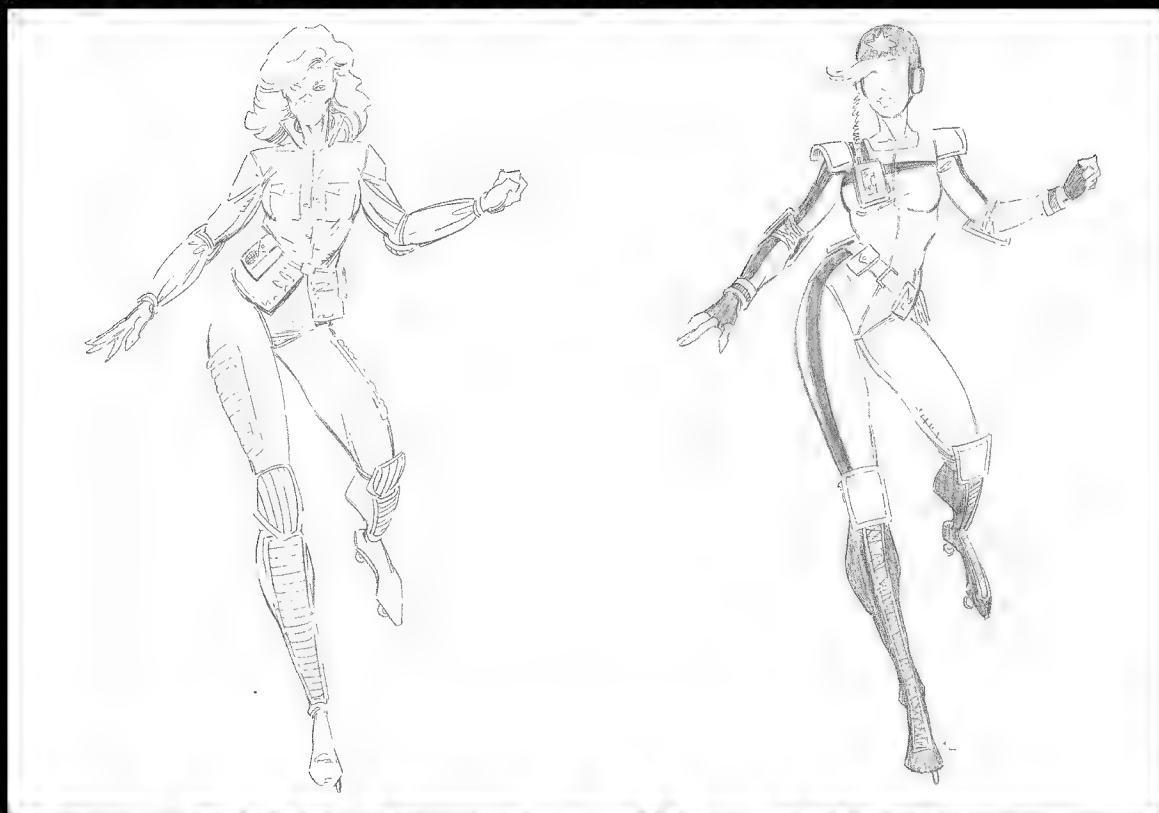


Marvel Press Poster #55 – Rogue (1989)
by Cynthia Martin

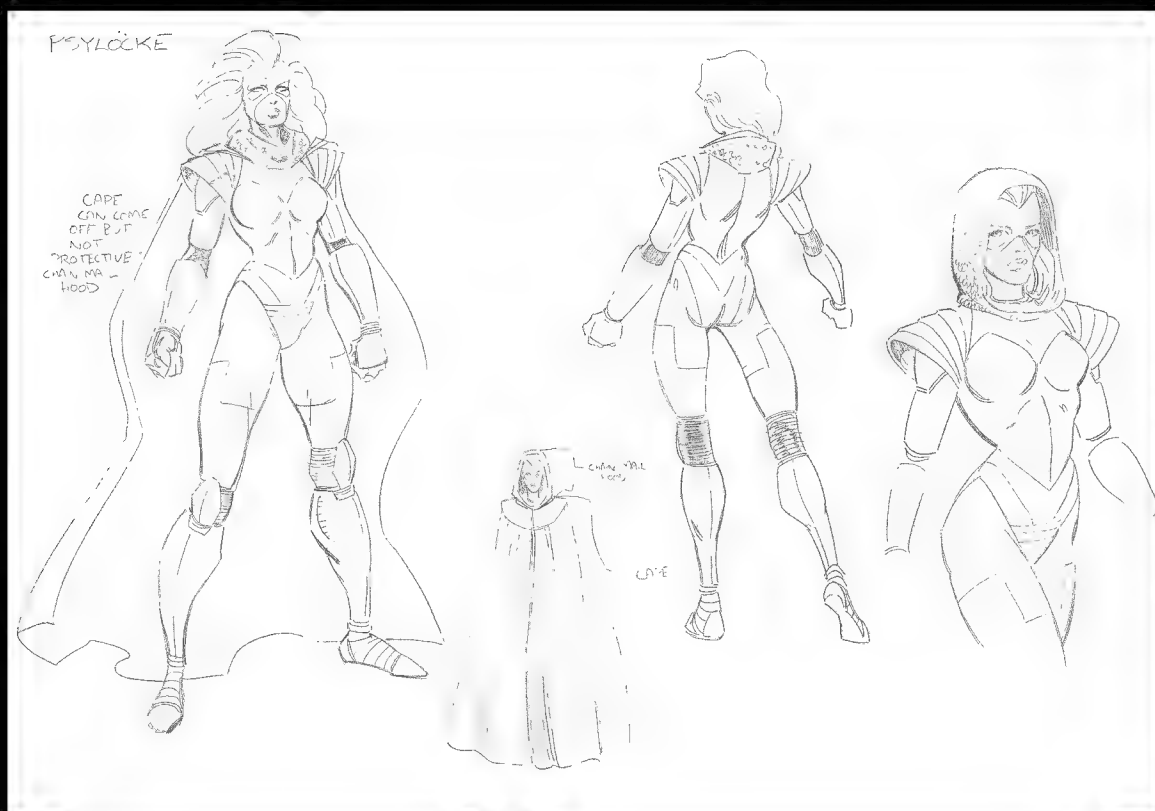
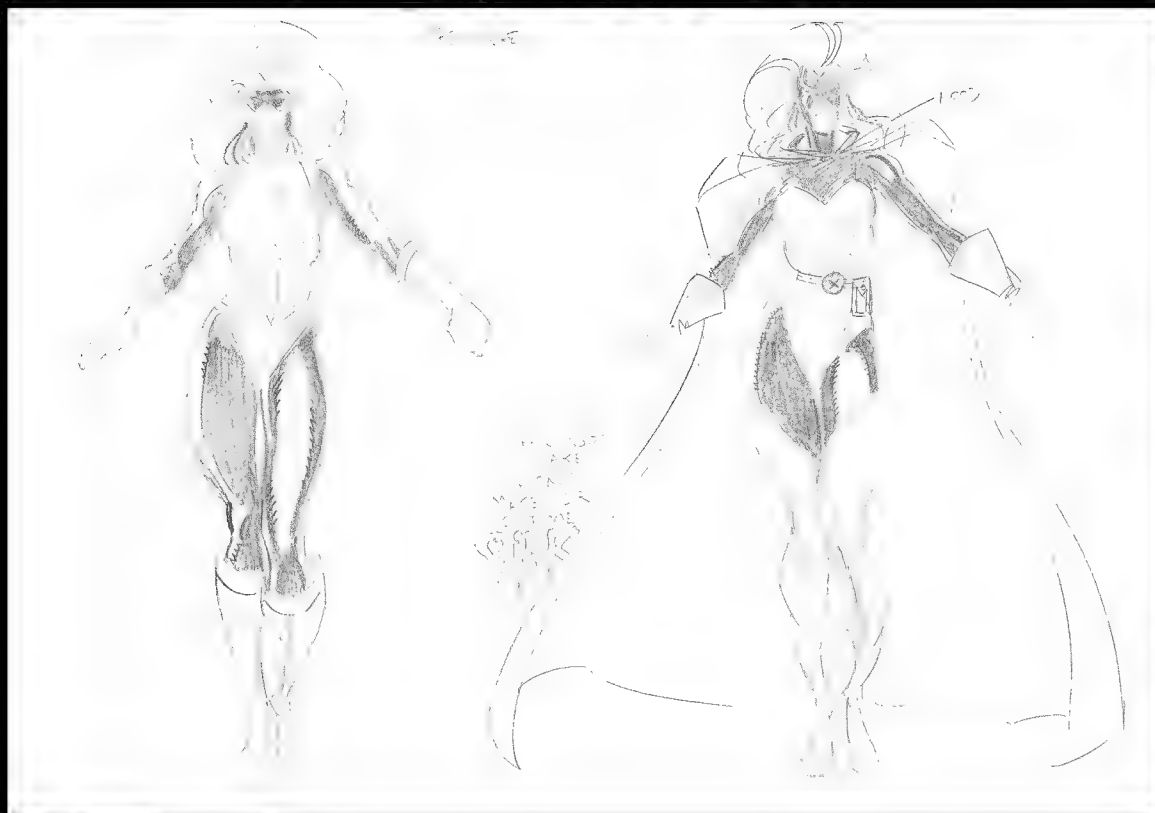


R • O • G • U • E

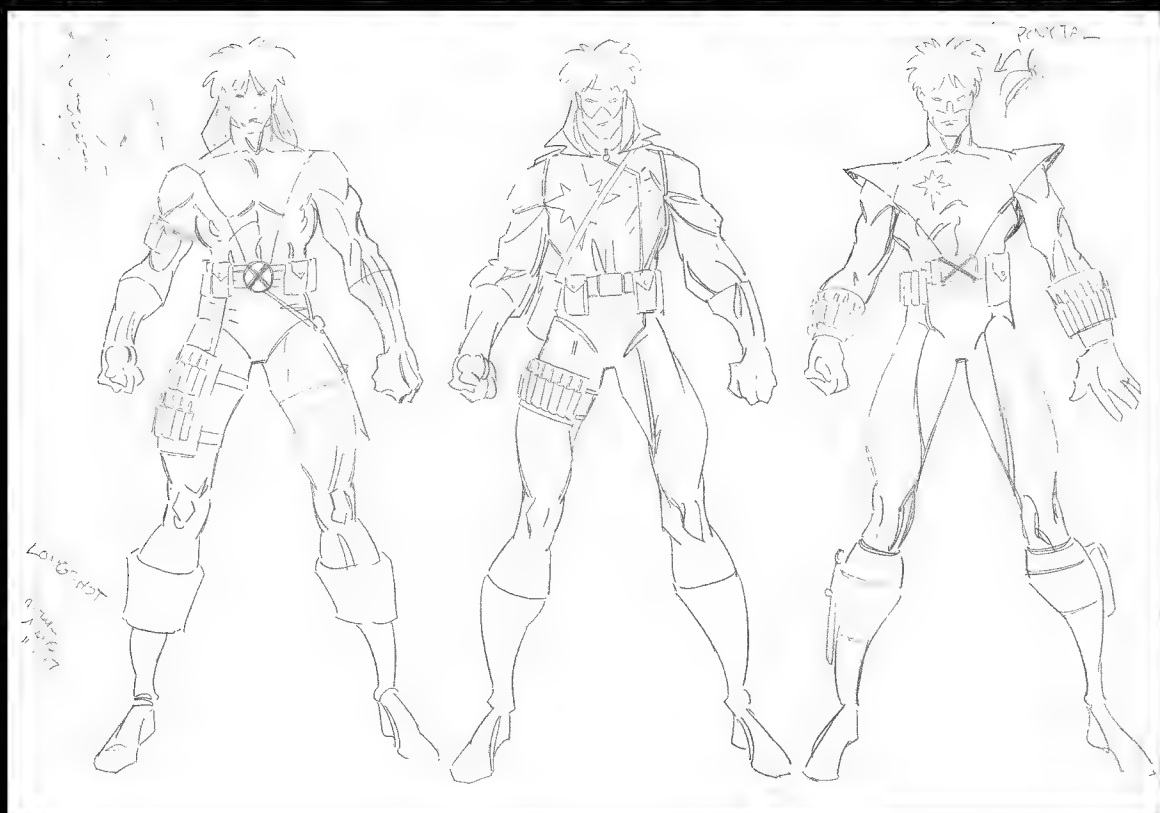
In November 1987, X-title editor Ann Nocenti commissioned Arthur Adams to create a series of potential new costume designs for the X-Men.



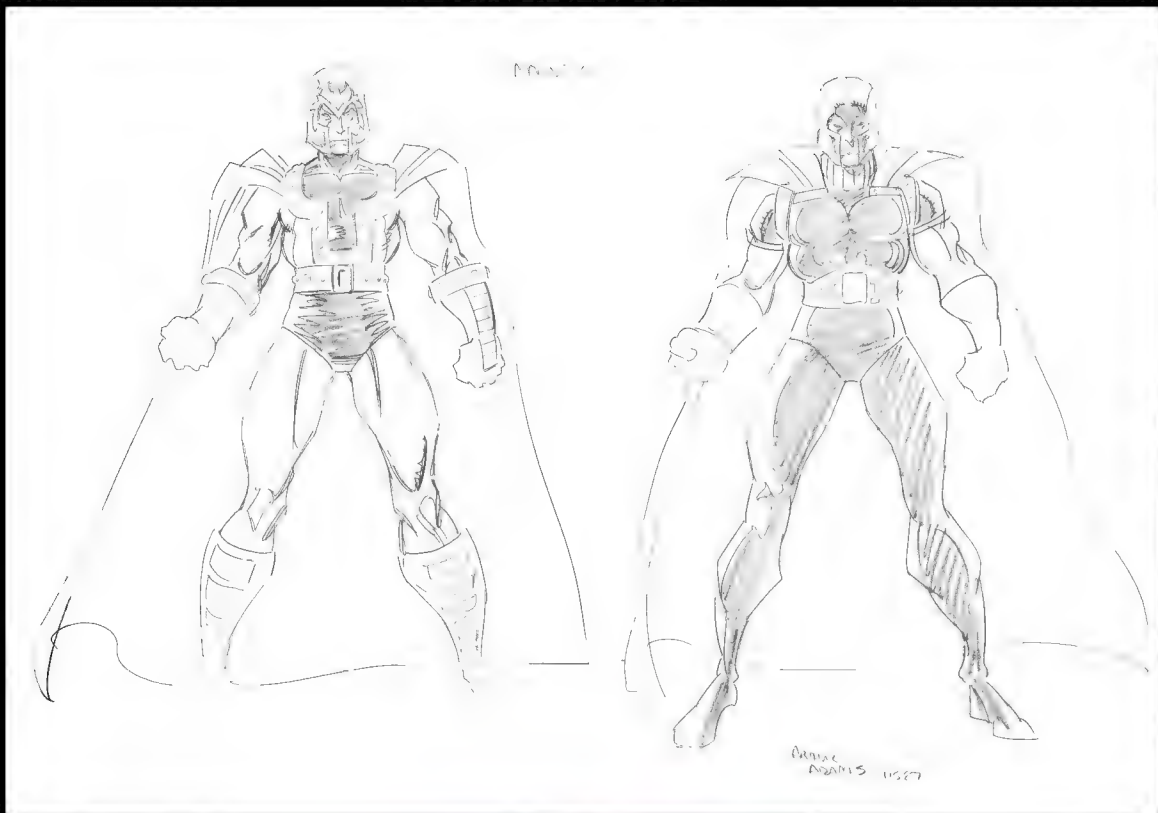
Dazzler (facing page) and Psylocke (this page) costume designs
by Arthur Adams



Rogue (top) and Longshot (bottom) costume designs
by Arthur Adams



Magneto costume designs
by Arthur Adams



Marvel Age #66 (September 1988) checks in with X-editor Ann Nocenti as she leaves editorial to begin a celebrated freelance writing career.

ANN NOCENTI

past, present, and future



In the immortal words of Vice-President of Publishing Mike Hobson, "We're losing a daughter, but we're gaining a writer."

Ann Nocenti, longtime Editor of Marvel's line of mutant books — *THE X-MEN*, *EXCALIBUR*, *THE NEW MUTANTS*, *CLASSIC X-MEN*, and *WOLVERINE*, to name a few —

is finally taking the plunge and going freelance. We in the Editorial Department will miss her, but we're looking forward to seeing more of her work as one of Marvel's top freelance writers. What follows is, in Ann's own words, a look at some of her projects past, present, and future.

—Bobbie Chase

Before Marvel I worked mostly as a technical writer, doing odd jobs here and there. I was writing about food physiology, solar energy, other technical writing. I also ghost-wrote a horror novel — I was sort of flim-flamming it, doing a lot of check chasing. I did some film work on an interview show. But my background before that had been as a painter, etcher, jewelry maker — all the arts, in college.

I finally decided that I was always hungry, and that it was time to get a steady job. So, I answered an ad in the *Village Voice* — they didn't mention Marvel — but it was something about editorial and art, and it was vague, and so I thought it was the job for me!

"We're losing a daughter, but we're gaining a writer."

I called, and personnel told me that it was a comic book company, and they sounded embarrassed, but I thought it sounded great.

So, I started out as the assistant to Jim Shooter. As soon as I got here, and saw all the artwork lying around, and how beautiful it was, I knew this would be fun! I'd never heard of comics at all, and was completely naive about them. The idea of a printed medium with words and pictures together, as a linguistic unit that creates a 'sentence,' as a way of telling a story had never occurred to me. I was like those people who irritate me now — who think that comic books are mass-produced, like a "Slurpee" glass — assembly line style.

I was only Jim's assistant for about six months. I was a *horrible* secretary — almost got him in trouble a few times, because I *hated* keeping records and files.

But then, I got a job in the editorial department as Al Milgrom's assistant, working on *THE INCREDIBLE HULK*, *THE THING*, and *ROM*. That gave me the chance to jump around Editorial for a while,

working on a whole range of different titles. I went from *Al*, to *Carl Potts*, to *Weezie* (Louise Simonson), who had the mutant books at the time.

All the while I was editing, I was also writing. Denny O'Neil gave me my first short story for *BIZARRE ADVENTURES*, and then followed a *SPIDER-WOMAN* series.

EXPERIENCES AS EDITOR OF THE MUTANT BOOKS

The idea of super heroes as mutant outcasts appealed to me a lot, so I was glad to get these books to edit. They're all great, fun characters to work with. *X-MEN* attracts some of the best artists — Bill Sienkiewicz, John Romita Jr., Barry Windsor-Smith, Rick Leonardi — everybody who's worked on the books over the years — now Alan Davis and Marc Silvestri — it was never a problem getting good artists to work on them.

And as for Chris Claremont's writing, he has this amazing ability to empathize with characters so that you're under their skin, and with them through their problems. He also has an amazing ability to make any situation dramatic. You really *do* become concerned that Kitty's lost a shoelace! It becomes dramatic. It's Chris's personal forte. I've found it exciting to help come up with stories, and to shape their lives. We had our own little universe — our own empire. I'll miss the books, and working in the office in general — especially the contact with the writers and artists who have really become friends.

LONGSHOT:

Longshot was my first created character. He was an incredibly fun, lively character — a real sweetheart. Art Adams filled him with the same sort of energy I had envisioned. He's very special to me. The energy he was created with was "happy," as opposed to a lot of my darker stuff that's followed. Art and I are now reviving him for what will probably be a two year series — sort of an 'existential-man' concept, with Longshot wandering the planet and gathering friends. Mephisto will figure big in this series — the corrupt versus the incorruptible soul. Mephisto will be treated as the real devil —



unfathomably evil, yet tragically, eternally, *LONELY*. And Longshot will meet just about every Marvel hero along the way. Art has a lot of fun ideas, things he wants to do — really dramatic, cinemagraphic stuff.

FUTURE PLANS:

Other than that, John Bolton and I are doing *SOMEPLACE STRANGE*, sort of a surrealist chase/hunt for the Bogeyman. The characters involved a whole other world. It's going to be funny, light, adult/children's fantasy. And it's also really horrific.

We're also working on an extremely adult horror project. It'll be evil and disgusting. It's even giving us the creeps talking about it. Completely psychotic — the kind of thing you'll want to burn before you finish reading it. And then, of course, I have an *INHUMANS* Graphic Novel, with Brett Blevins

and Al Williamson, which is due out this summer. Also, Klaus Janzon and I are doing a four-issue Graphic Album with Wolverine and the Punisher, called 'Guns and Devils.' It's a paranoid, covert, insane piece of work, featuring a lot of short-fused eccentrics going off like grenades on each other. We also find out why the Punisher 'does what he does.'

DAREDEVIL:

I'm enjoying writing Daredevil. Daredevil is a wonderful character. He just stands there and he's in conflict, because he's a man who's found a loophole. He made a deathbed promise to his father not to fight, but the lawyer in him found a loophole for himself and created Daredevil as a way to keep that deathbed promise. There's that paradox, and the paradox of his lawyer self. He's a man who supposedly believes completely in the system, and yet as a vigilante he's a contradiction to the system. And again, some story lines have alluded to his christian beliefs, and yet he wears the devil suit. So from every angle he's a living paradox. It's not only dual identity; there're layers and layers of schizophrenia in this character. I'm about to take this hero and really sink my teeth into him, shake him up, like a dog with a rag doll in his teeth.



IN CLOSING:

It seems odd now to be stepping off a treadmill. If you've been going to a job every day for seven years, there's bound to be a sense of vertigo. But I have plenty to do, and I'm happy to be making the change. The job was challenging, but I feel that after seven years I've done it as well as I'm ever going to do it. It's not as challenging any more, so it's time to leave. So now I can go off and be a paranoid, lonely freelancer. I'll come up to the office, rattling a few coins in my cup, and beg to all the editors.

X-TRA

THE *MUTANT* REPORT

X-TRA

VOLUME 3

"THE NEXT STEP IN NEWS EVOLUTION"

NUMBER 10

MARC SILVESTRI INTERVIEW

This year the X-MEN marks its twenty-fifth anniversary. Over the past quarter century an extraordinary series of artists have worked on this series: Jack Kirby, Jim Steranko, Neal Adams, Dave Cockrum, John Byrne, Paul Smith, and John Romita Jr., to name only some. The latest in the distinguished ranks of X-MEN artists is penciler Marc Silvestri. Peter Sanderson conducted this interview with Marc to learn his thoughts about working on THE X-MEN and his career in general.

MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE: How did you get started in the comics business?

MARC: Gee, that was a long time ago. By accident, really, to be honest. My cousin was an avid comics collector. I believe he still is. This was eight years ago or so. I was working at a health club in Chicago, managing the place. My only exposure to comics at that time was casual reading at my cousin's house. I was mostly looking at books in which I thought the art looked real nice, because since I wasn't a regular reader, it was hard for me to follow a lot of the continuing stories.

One day I was doodling on a note pad at this health club. At that point I was kind of sick of working there. I drew something — I don't remember what it was — I thought it looked pretty good, and I thought, gee, maybe I should do this for a living. I think mainly at that time because it looked like it might be an easy thing to do. [Laughs] Gee, this isn't work, it's drawing pictures all day long! Little did I know

My cousin had told me that DC Comics was launching a big talent hunt. This was six or seven months later. At that time I quit my job and I started working on a portfolio. That was really the first time I seriously started drawing. (I had taken art in high school.) I showed my portfolio to the Powers That Be at the Chicago Comicon of that year, and they liked what they saw, and I've been working in comics ever since. A year later I talked to Jim Shooter and showed him what I had, again at the Chicago convention, and I've been with Marvel ever since.

MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE: What was your first assignment at Marvel?

MARC: The first story I ever did was originally for SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN, but after I did it, they decided to put it in the regular CONAN book. That was CONAN THE BARBARIAN #135.

MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE: You went on to spend a good deal of time on KING CONAN, later known as CONAN THE KING.

MARC: I was with that for a

number of years. That was my longest stint before doing THE X-MEN.

MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE: Did you enjoy doing sword and sorcery material?

MARC: Yeah, at first I really did. What I wanted to get into when I first got interested in comics was the sword and sorcery stuff. When I was a kid, my brother, who is eleven years older than I am, used to buy Edgar Rice Burroughs books that Frank Frazetta was doing covers for. Even when I was a kid, that artwork fascinated me, and that got me interested in sword and sorcery. So I was real happy to do CONAN for awhile. But, like anything, you get tired of it. I had been doing it for a couple of years, and it was time to move on.

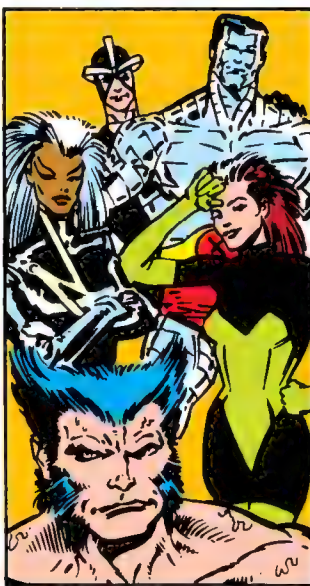
MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE: So what did you do then?

MARC: After I left CONAN THE KING I did a graphic novel called REVENGE OF THE LIVING MONOLITH. Your basic big guy munching on big buildings, like several Japanese horror movies you've seen in the past. David Michelinie wrote it. I worked with [editor] Jim Owsley on the MONOLITH book, and following that he got me the WEB OF SPIDER-MAN stint that I did for six issues, again with David as writer.

MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE: What kind of changes did you find yourself making in moving from drawing barbarian stories to super hero stories?

MARC: It's strange going from the barbarian era into a contemporary background, New York City. I wasn't used to drawing that sort of thing. I was eager. I was kind of tired of loincloths and broadswords. It's easy to draw, but it's very limited creatively. I was eager to get into mainstream super hero stories, and when SPIDER-MAN was offered to me, I said, sure, I'll take it. And I had fun with it. I had a good time working with David. I thought we did some interesting stories.

Then one thing led to another and eventually we weren't on the book any more. After that, I really didn't know what I was going to do



in comics. Ann Nocenti offered me a mini-series, X-MEN VS. THE AVENGERS, and I snapped that up right away, number one, because THE X-MEN is a book that I had always wanted to work on since I got involved in comics, but I never thought I'd ever get a chance to do it. And the Avengers are always a lot of fun to draw.

Of course, if it weren't for that series, I never would have been offered the job of doing THE X-MEN. So I'm thankful for that.

MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE: How do you enjoy doing THE X-MEN?

MARC: It's great. I'm having a great time with it. It's a real treat to be working with the top people in the field, like Chris Claremont. I can't stress enough how happy I am to be working with Dan Green as an inker. To a penciler, a good inker is more valuable than gold. Dan, I think, is one of the best in the business. So that's another reason working on THE X-MEN has been a real plus for me: having an inker who can really make my pencils look good. He's saved my butt more than once on pages that I didn't think looked very good, but after Dan has gotten ahold of them, they just really look good.

MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE: Do you have favorite issues or characters so far?

MARC: I like the three issues we did in the "Fall of the Mutants" series. I also think the issues I'm working on now, in which the Brood make a comeback, came out really well. Chris wrote some really good stories for them, and visually I think they came out the best of all the ones we've done together so far.

On a book like THE X-MEN, where you're dealing with a team of eight members, that can sometimes be grueling, but also, as opposed to doing a single hero book like SPIDER-MAN, if you get tired of doing a certain hero, you know you have seven others to choose from to direct your attention to.

I would have to say my current favorites are Wolverine and Rogue. They're the ones I'm most comfortable with.

MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE: Why Wolverine?

MARC: Wolverine, I think, appeals to me because of his savage power. Visually, he makes a great comics character. His natural tools, his claws. His stature, which is stocky and short, which is unusual for a super hero. And his feistiness and his unusual code of honor. They all add up to make him a really unusual character. He's fun to draw.

Storm is another character that





I enjoy drawing. She is a little bit hard to get a handle on, because she is the leader of the group, and she has to be handled in a specific fashion that presented quite a challenge. She has a certain attitude that's tough to capture without dropping into clichés and certain poses. She's a character who's a little more complex than a Captain America, who you have to draw in these star-spangled poses. She's not that cut and dried. She's got a little more complex and deeper personality. So it's kind of tough transferring her to a comic book. But that's probably one of the reasons I enjoy drawing her, because it's a bit of a challenge. But you have to be in the mood for that sort of thing. You have to have an unusual energy level the day you have to draw Storm in a principal role in a specific issue.

MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE: How does drawing Rogue differ?

MARC: Rogue is a little more play-

ful. She's not quite as serious as Storm is. She's younger, she's got a lot of energy about her, yet everyone knows she can handle herself well in a fight. There's underlying tragedy to her character, her power being such that she can't have any real physical contact with anyone. It makes her kind of a loner, and she's appealing that way, because although she has this cheerful facade and this playful attitude, deep inside you know there's a lot of pain in there. That's something Chris and I are going to be working on in future issues. We're going to be bringing it out more, and defining the fact that she has all these multiple personalities in her head, which are in constant conflict with her, trying to take control. In fact, we do an issue in which Carol Danvers' personality does take control of Rogue. There's a lot to play with in there. She's got a strong yet playful persona that I find appealing.

MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE: What about Psylocke?

MARC: I'm not really sure about Psylocke, and what to do with her. She hasn't been around that long. Chris seems to have a real good view on her. I'm still working on her a bit. I think with a few good issues focusing on her, she'll become a more well-rounded character in my mind.

MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE: Colossus?

MARC: Colossus is always a lot of fun. Any time you have to draw a big bruiser like that, you know you're going to have a good time. There's a lot of broad action with him because of his strength and size. You can have people flying all over the place, crashing through walls and windows, and that's always a lot of fun. When I have to do a scene with Colossus, I'm in a good mood that day. His armored body is also visually striking. It works well in a color comic to have this

chrome-plated giant running around with these giant fists and pounding the bad guys. It's a lot of fun.

MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE: Dazzler?

MARC: I'm not really sure about Dazzler. She's got a lot of potential, which Chris and I are going to try to realize in the next couple of issues. I like her power, especially the way Chris has defined it, where her power is actually life-sustaining for her. She has to absorb sound in order to live the way we have to eat. Visually she has a good power with the laser effects and all that. So I'm looking forward to using her in the upcoming issues and defining her personality a little bit more.

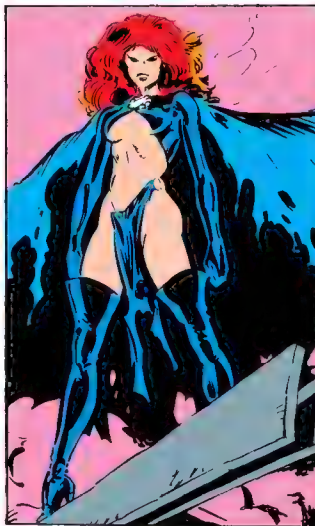
MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE: Havok?

MARC: Havok has a long history in *THE X-MEN*, and yet I don't think anyone has really known what to do with the guy. Chris is working on that now. Havok's kind of bland, very even-tempered. He's kind of the preppie of the super hero set. We're going to be adding some strength to his character and some conflict to make him a bit more interesting, a romantic involvement. Again, that's a good visual power he has.

MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE: Longshot?

MARC: He's a lot of fun. He's the joker of the group. I liked the character before I started doing *THE X-MEN*. He's a way for me to draw Spider-Man without drawing Spider-Man. He doesn't have the same powers, obviously, but he's nimble like Spider-Man, and he can bounce around, and he has that light sense of humor that Spider-Man is famous for.

MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE: What do you think of *THE X-MEN*'s current Australian setting? Are you using a lot of reference on



Australia?

MARC: Yeah, I've got a lot of reference, a lot of big expensive coffee table books. I'd love to visit there. The place fascinates me. I'd like to explore the territory [in future stories]. It runs the gamut, from civilization to the wildest open plains and jungles.

MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE: What can you tell us about the upcoming "Inferno" crossover story in *X-MEN* and the other mutant books?

MARC: I like crossovers. It's something special to work on. I can't give too much away. There's a lot of surprises. I think a lot of people will be happy to see the return of Mr. Sinister. Ever since he first appeared briefly in two pages in one of the earlier issues I did, whenever I meet fans at conventions, they always ask about Mr. Sinister. He is playing a major role, along with S'ym. There are big surprises with Madeline Pryor. That's probably

the biggest thing. A lot of people have been wondering what are we going to be doing with Madeline Pryor, what is she doing there. A lot of those questions are going to be answered in this story.

MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE: How did you design Mr. Sinister?

MARC: Somebody once said about songwriting that if a song takes more than fifteen minutes to write, forget it and start something else. They had asked me for some sketches of Mr. Sinister, and I was tooling around the house. For a couple of days I had been working on these designs and nothing was happening. Federal Express was going to be knocking at my door in a half hour and I had to mail these out that night. Then all of a sudden, because I knew I had to mail it out in a half hour, these ideas started coming to me, and he just sort of came together. The design was received well by the people over at the office. I like the character. I think he's going to be a lot of fun to play with in the future.

MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE: And what would you like to do in comics in the future?

MARC: If time permits, or if I get faster, I'd like to pick up another book, maybe do some writing. Right now I'm happy with *THE X-MEN*. I'm happy working with Chris. We've got a pretty good working relationship. Chris is always open to suggestions, which I think is great. As I become more comfortable with the characters and know them better, I'm sure there'll be times I can work closely with Chris on plotting. I like working with Bob Harras, who's editing the book. I loved working with Ann. I enjoy the characters and the response from the fans. Like I said before, *THE X-MEN* is the book that I always wanted to do. So I can see myself doing it for quite a while.

— Peter Sanderson

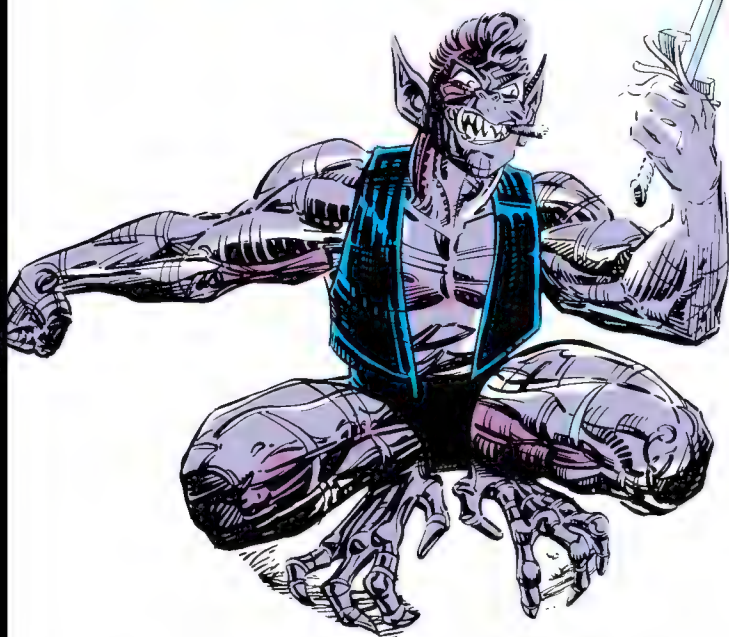


Marvel Age #70 (January 1989) unearths the origins of Inferno with Chris Claremont and Louise Simonson and why they'll be taking a crossover break.

X-TRA THE MUTANT REPORT X-TRA

INFERNO

VOLUME 3 "THE NEXT STEP IN NEWS EVOLUTION" NUMBER 11



Every year or so, the Marvel Madmen go out of their way to produce something special a massive effort that involves a whole bunch of your favorite characters—often in stories that change the face of the Marvel Universe forever! First, it was SECRET WARS, then SECRET WARS II. Last year it was FALL OF THE MUTANTS, and this past summer it was THE EVOLUTIONARY WAR. Why do we do this? Why do we put out the tremendous effort it takes to coordinate a mega-story across several magazines?

"We do it from sheer stupidity!" So says Louise Simonson, scripter of THE NEW MUTANTS and X-FACTOR.

"Originally, all I wanted to do was deal with Ilyana—her con-

frontation with what I guess you could call her destiny. That was really all I had in mind, just a story about Ilyana and what she can become."

"When I talked to Chris Claremont (writer of THE X-MEN), it turned out that he had some stuff in mind for THE X-MEN and X-FACTOR that sort of tied together with what I wanted to do, so we decided to do it in tandem."

"All I wanted to do," said Claremont, "was clear up the redhead problem. Our real mistake was telling editor Bob Harras about it and telling him it was okay for other books to join in."

The result is INFERNO, Marvel's newest mega-saga.

INFERNO is the story of what can happen when tremendous

power is allowed to rage uncontrolled. Ilyana, the mistress of Limbo, has always used her mystic realm as a means of transportation for herself and her fellow New Mutants. She has also used it as a convenient way to dispose of various enemies. Unfortunately, Limbo is not some uninhabited and harmless realm. Limbo is the home of numberless demons, demons who, led by S'ym (Ilyana's "major-domo") have been working for eons to break through to the "helpless" green fields of Earth.

Ilyana's fear of turning into the "Darkchilde," a role that she has been told is her destiny, and her growing attachment to her New Mutant teammates, has led to her spending less and less time in Limbo. This "carelessness" has led to S'ym growing more powerful—and the barrier between Earth and Limbo growing weaker. Finally, it weakens to the point that the Demons are able to reach through, change things to become more to their liking.

Their contact point is New York City (where else?) and it quickly begins to reflect its new connection with Limbo. Buildings begin to—shift. Cars become—almost alive. Clothing attempts to—eat its wearers?! The Empire State Building, symbol of the city, begins to grow, becoming an evil mountain in the heart of New York.

With this as a background, four major story lines are interwoven:

In **THE NEW MUTANTS (issues 70-73)**: Ilyana and the kids successfully free Lila Cheyney and Gosamyr's family, fighting Spyder in the process. As they attempt to use Limbo to return to Earth, they are attacked by hordes of Demon-Monsters!

Ilyana realizes that only she, in her Darkchilde persona can stop them, but as she uses the Soul-sword she begins her transforma-

tion into the evil she has always feared. For her, it is the ultimate decision: give in to her destiny—become the Darkchilde and dwell forever among the demons of Limbo, exiling herself from Earth, her brother, and the teammates she has come to think of as family or: find another way to seal the breach, a way that will allow her to remain on Earth, although bereft of her powers, and her ability to teleport between dimensions—forever.

In **X-FACTOR** (issues 35-38): Scott and Jean make an all-out search for Scott's missing son. Unfortunately, N'stirh, one of the Demons of Limbo, is collecting "special" children for a very special purpose. The sacrifice of these kids will forever open the breach between Earth and Limbo, allowing the Demons control eternally. As they continue the search, battling their way through the now almost totally transformed New York, they meet the X-Men, fellow mutants they have long thought dead! The two groups track N'stirh to his lair. There, as the final confrontation takes place, the souls of the children (not to mention those of Scott, Maddie, and Jean) lie in the balance.

In **THE X-MEN** (issues 239-242): the team has accepted Maddie Pryor as a member since their apotheosis in Texas. When she is drawn into New York by her connection with Mr. Sinister and N'stirh, they follow, doing all they can for one they consider a friend and comrade. Finding themselves face to face with X-Factor, people several of them know as former comrades, they find themselves faced with a major dilemma. Whose side are they on? Do they fight to help Maddie, their teammate and friend? Or do they trust their own kind, other Mutants whom they have trusted in the past, but who have recently appeared to work against Mutantkind, hunting them down for a price.

What they cannot realize is that their decision is a key one, the final barrier that will determine whether the Demons will win, and gain a new homeland, or lose, and be forced back into the nowhere of Limbo.

In **X-TERMINATORS** (1-4): The newest Marvel Mutant Limited Series, Rusty, Boom-Boom, and the other X-Factor kids have an adventure of their own. They are faced with a variety of problems: a move to a boarding school, the Mutant Registration Act (Rusty is now of age), and the kidnapping by



the Demons of several of the youngest X-Terminators. Naturally, the kids don't take any of this sitting down! They immediately take on all comers, from the U.S. Government to the most powerful of the Demons! As they fight, they come to realize that it takes more than mere powers to win battles. There is more to this than they thought! And when they finally achieve their victory, they realize that there is a lot more to this hero business than they had figured.

Naturally, we're not going to reveal more about the various storylines, but we will tell you one thing, things will change in the Marvel Mutant Universe—change forever.

One more thing that will change, the genesis of future Marvel crossover projects. As both Louise and Walt Simonson have stated:

"After this, no more annuals, no more crossovers, no more special events. We told Bob Harris he better look elsewhere than the mutants if he wants to do this kind of project in 1989."

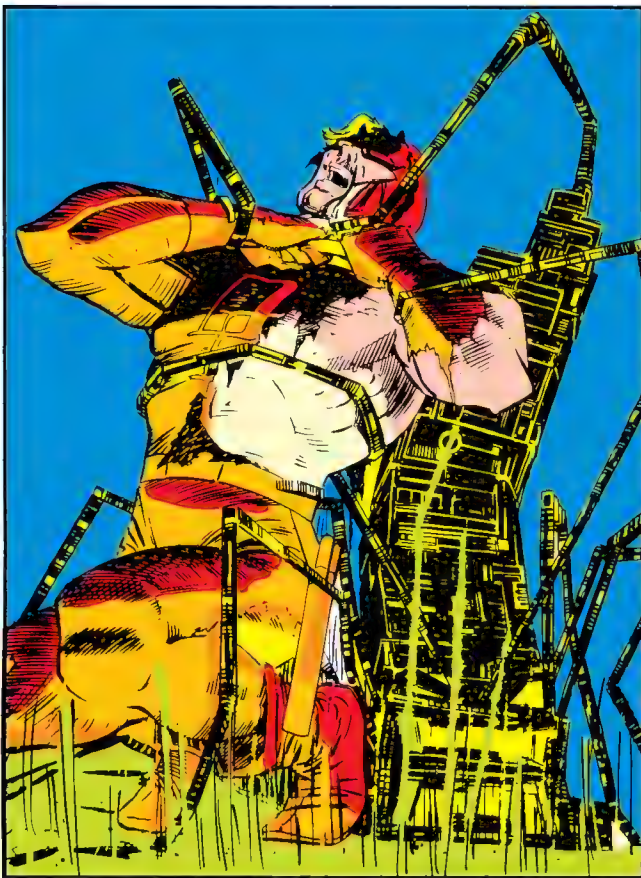
Or, as Chris Claremont put it: "Amen!"

INFERNO

**CROSS
OVERS**

Demons in the streets. Buildings coming alive, eating their inhabitants. Clothing slowly digesting its wearers. All of these are part of the "New" New York City of the **INFERNO**. Marvel's multi-issue, multi-magazine epic this fall. The bulk of the story line concerns the plight of Ilyana Rasputin and her battle to regain control of Limbo and force the Demons back into that nether realm. But while she is doing this, and while the various X-Folk are fighting the major demons and trying to stop them from permanently opening the rift between Earth and Limbo, what are other Marvel heroes doing?

Well, those in the New York area, which has been sealed off by Demon forces, are doing the same things the mutants are doing: fighting for the survival of Earth!



In **THE AVENGERS**: the majority of the team is trapped outside New York City, held out by the Demon force field. It falls to Captain America to battle alone—until he is joined by Reed and Sue Richards, desperately looking for their son, Franklin, who has been captured by N'astirh's minions, Nanny and the Orphan Maker, as part of the grand design to open the breach to Limbo forever! As the battle becomes more and more heated, a new hero appears from nowhere to join the Avengers in defeating the Demon-monsters who would take over the world!

In **DAREDEVIL**: Demons start to appear in DD's little corner of the world, Hell's Kitchen, and Daredevil is forced to hit the streets to battle them. As the fight progresses, and the INFERNO effect becomes stronger and stronger, the very structure of the city becomes dangerous, trains come to life and become demons themselves, consuming travel weary passengers. What is the Man Without Fear to do? He fights on, trying to save

that one little part of the world he considers his

In the **FANTASTIC FOUR**: the team has problems of their own. Sure, New York is turning to "oatmeal and monsters" outside their window, but they're battling Graviton, and they feel certain they must defeat him before they turn to the problems of the City of Demons. As they finally turn to the City, they discover a new problem in their own group, as the "changed" atmosphere causes the Human Torch some problems of his own, problems that will change the way he is regarded by those around him.

In **POWER PACK**: while their apartment goes crazy around them, the kids find themselves too sick to battle the forces taking over their city. And also too sick to prevent the return of the Bogeyman, who finally makes good, on his threats, forcing the kids to make a decision they have been avoiding for months

In the **SPIDER-MAN** titles. Spidey, too, is pulled into the IN

FERNO by its effect on his home base in New York. After all, it's tough enough to go wall-crawling when the wall *doesn't* try to eat you! In any case, the skewed reality of Limbo causes an old villain-turned-friend to lose control and again threaten the city—and those he loves. And while Spidey battles that threat, a still greater menace surfaces. The Hobgoblin is in this stricken city, and far from fighting the menace, he joins it, and is changed forever. Can he beat Spidey now, with the aid of his new and powerful friends?

Obviously, the INFERNO will create more problems than even the heroes of New York can solve. And while each is busy with problems of his or her own, the greater problem still grows and flourishes. If the much-maligned Mutants of the X-Men and X-Factor cannot stop N'astirh, there will be no respite, no relief. Not only will New York become a Hell on Earth, but the blight will spread, until there is no Earth left at all.

The saga of INFERNO was planned as a Marvel mega-epic. As such, it is spread over many issues of many different Marvel titles. Despite this, it is not necessary to read all the crossovers to understand what is going on, (although you'll want to read all of them to appreciate the story in its entirety). Each part was conceived separately, and each is complete within itself. For example, the Spider-Man adventure in INFERNO all appears in Spidey's own comics, likewise with the AVENGERS, FANTASTIC FOUR, etc. Still, to help you with this new epic, here's a checklist of INFERNO tie-ins (note that the major story line is listed separately, see the accompanying article):

AVENGERS: #298-300

DAREDEVIL: #262-264

POWER PACK: #42-44

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN:

#311-313

SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN:

#146-148

WEB OF SPIDER-MAN:

#47-48

FANTASTIC FOUR: #322-324

The final capper, the last piece of the puzzle, will appear in CLOAK AND DAGGER #4, and will tie up whatever loose ends remain, and ensure that *all* the storylines reach conclusions.

The INFERNO, will it temper super heroes, make them better, stronger, more powerful? Or will it destroy them, burning them up in one last holocaust of heroism. Only time, and careful reading, will tell

Doug Murray

This page from *Marvel Age Annual #4* (1988) detailed upcoming X-title storylines and featured unused Inferno artwork by Walter Simonson with a non-blue Beast.

X-FACTOR

Written by **Louise Simonson**, penciled by **Walt Simonson**, and inked by **Bob Wiacek**. \$1.00.

"In #33, it's the deadline for the Mutant Registration Act," scripser **Louise Simonson** told us, "and the **Orphanmaker** is kidnaping mutant children and killing parents. He's our 'What if **Peter Pan** were a psychopathic killer?' riff. It's the **Orphanmaker** and **Nanny** and the **Lost Boys** (and **Girl**).

"**Rustsy**, as a protest to the Mutant Registration Act, turns himself in to the Navy but refuses to sign the mutant registration. And that's to set up the **X-TERMINATORS** Limited Series.

"Also in these issues, we find out the effects of **Infectia's** kiss upon the **Beast**. He'll be the **Beast** the way you always wanted to see him . . . or will he?

"**Angel** finds out what happened to **Candy Southern** and he's not happy, so **Cameron Hodge** and he have a kind of fatal discussion about it. We also learn of the **Right's** involvement with the **Occult**.

"In the meantime, **Jean** and **Scott** locate **Scott's** baby and go after it and confront the **Orphanmaker**. And during the fight with the **Orphanmaker**, demons from Limbo will come in and steal the baby! That leads directly into — ta da! — **Inferno**!

"**Inferno** is demons overrunning the city and **Scott** and **Jean** on the trail of the baby and all other weird stuff happening and Hell on Earth and, oh, it'll be awful. I think by the end of that, the **Angel** will rejoin the team as **Archangel** and we will learn the secret of his evil wings."

THE X-MEN

Written by **Chris Claremont**, penciled by **Mark Silvestri** and **Rick Leonardi**, and inked by **Dan Green**. \$1.00.

"The fundamental storyline for the year, through the fall and winter, is **Inferno**, which is this year's big crossover," **Chris** said. "It will possibly be the last of the big-time X-book crossovers, and we'll go out with a bang. It will be the first and hopefully only meeting between the **X-Men** and **X-Factor**!"

Chris revealed that the **Inferno** storyline will contain a number of truly significant events, including "the final confrontation between **Cyclops** and **Madelyne**, the resolution of what happened to the baby, what happened to **Madelyne**, who's married to whom, the imminent end of life on Earth as we know it, and stuff like that. It will probably be an obscenely massive crossover between **X-MEN**, **X-FACTOR**, **NEW MUTANTS**, **EXCALIBUR**, **POWER PACK**, **THE AVENGERS**, and probably **DAREDEVIL**."

Before the **X-Men** reach the **Inferno** storyline, though, **THE X-MEN** will be published bi-weekly throughout the summer. These issues will contain "a self-contained story which is in the continuity and which involves a new look at mutants. It'll hopefully be well-paced adventure with some elements that are relevant to the world at large and a few surprises that people may not expect from the **X-Men**."

X-TERMINATORS Limited Series

Written by **Louise Simonson**, penciled by **Jon Bogdanove**, and inked by **Al Williamson** and **Al Milgrom**. \$1.00.

"**X-TERMINATORS** will tie seriously into the **Inferno** stuff," said **Louise Simonson**, referring to this fall's mammoth crossover involving **THE X-MEN**, **THE NEW MUTANTS**, **X-FACTOR**, **EXCALIBUR**, and **POWER PACK**. The four-issue **Limited Series** will star the kids from **X-FACTOR**, out on their own against a fearsome new menace.

"We have a villain called **N'Astirh**," **Louise** said. "He will come to Earth in search of thirteen babies of power and purity to use them as sacrifices in the ceremony that will bring Limbo to Earth. He grabs several of the **X-FACTOR** kids and the others pick up after them.

"**N'Astirh** will become the first technological demon, having discovered the efficacy of computerizing his spells — how quickly he can call them up, how quickly he can disperse them — and will become a major combatant in the demons' war for possession of Manhattan. And the **X-FACTOR/X-TERMINATOR** kids are caught up in it.

"We'll be introducing another of these kids called **Whiz Kid**, who's a little Japanese transformer kid in a wheelchair. He has this wheelchair and he can make it be anything he wants it to.

"We may also guest-star some of the **X-Factor** guys and some of the **New Mutants**."

— Sholly Fisch



Inferno house ad from *X-Factor* #32 (September 1988)
by Walter Simonson

JEAN GREY, SCOTT SUMMERS, MADELYNE PRYOR--
YOU ONLY **THINK** YOU KNOW THE WHOLE STORY!

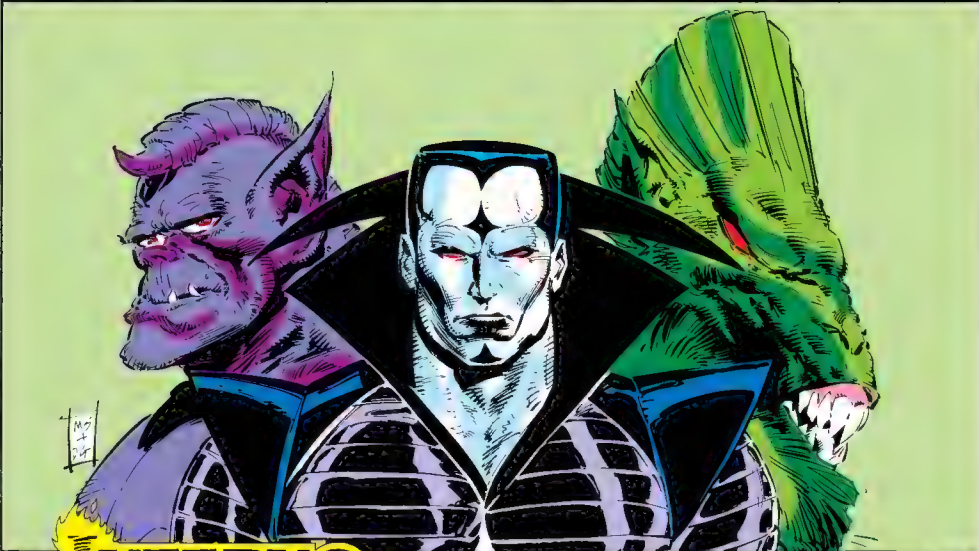


INFERNO --COMING THIS FALL IN X-MEN,
X-FACTOR AND NEW MUTANTS!

This comic book advertisement features three characters: Jean Grey with her iconic red and yellow Phoenix costume, Scott Summers in his blue and yellow X-Men uniform, and Madelyne Pryor with her long red hair and green jacket. The text at the top teases a deeper story behind these characters. The 'INFERNO' logo is prominently displayed in a stylized yellow font with a flame effect, and the bottom text announces their appearances in upcoming issues of X-Men, X-Factor, and New Mutants.

Inferno house ad from *The Uncanny X-Men* #236 (Late October 1988)
by Marc Silvestri & Dan Green

S'YM. MR. SINISTER. N'ASTIRH.
SOMETIMES GOOD PLANNING TAKES A LIFETIME.



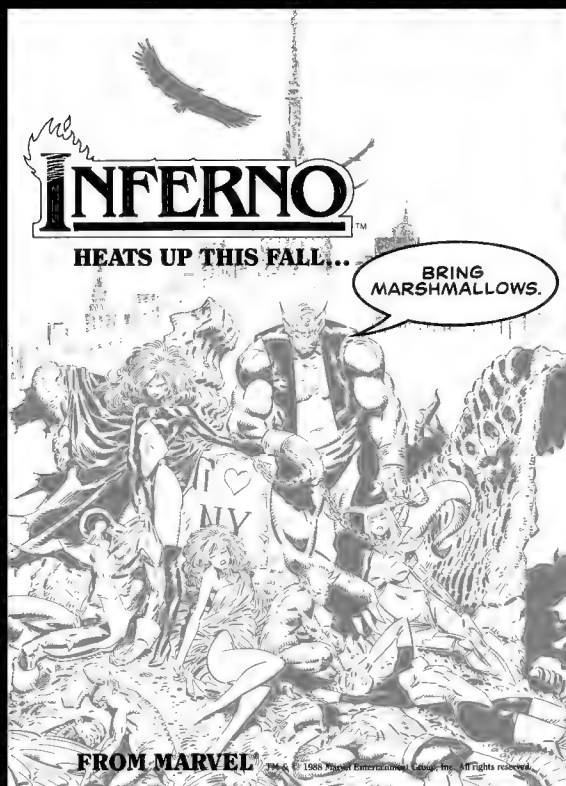
INFERNO --COMING THIS FALL IN X-MEN,
X-FACTOR AND NEW MUTANTS!

This advertisement depicts three villains: S'ym, a purple-skinned demon with horns; Mr. Sinister, a pale man with a white mask and a high-collared black coat; and N'astirh, a green, reptilian creature with sharp teeth. The text at the top suggests a long-term, strategic plot. The 'INFERNO' logo is shown in the same stylized yellow font, and the bottom text promises their appearances in X-Men, X-Factor, and New Mutants.

Inferno house ad from *The Uncanny X-Men* #239 (December 1988)
by Bret Blevins



4.5" x 6.25" Inferno crossover event promotional checklist



AFTER THE FALL, MUTANTS TAKE ON
A WHOLE NEW DIMENSION...

The events leading up to the INFERNO storyline begin in the X-TERMINATORS Limited Series as thirteen children are sought for a sacrificial rite which will allow the demons of Limbo, led by SYM and N'ASTIRH to invade Earth!

Only the X-MEN, X-FACTOR and THE NEW MUTANTS can prevent this from happening — and they're too busy fighting each other!!

See how the story affects other titles in the Marvel Universe!

Find out the fate of Scott and Maddie's baby!

Watch X-MEN and X-FACTOR slug it out for real!

You'll be shocked by what happens to MAGIK!

RESERVE YOUR COPIES TODAY!

Check off the titles you want reserved and return to your store owner — You'll be guaranteed to get in on the action and excitement of this Fall's Marvel-Mutant Melange!!

- | | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| JUNE | — Daredevil™ #262 | — Spectacular Spider-Man #147 |
| — X-Terminators™ #1 | — Amazing Spider-Man™ #311 | — Web of Spider-Man™ #47 |
| JULY | — Spectacular Spider-Man™ #146 | — Avengers #300 |
| — X-Terminators #2 | — Power Pack™ #43 | — Fantastic Four #323 |
| AUGUST | — Avengers™ #299 | NOVEMBER |
| — X-Men™ #239 | — X-Terminators #4 | — New Mutants #73 |
| — X-Factor™ #35 | — Fantastic Four™ #322 | — X-Men #242 |
| — Power Pack™ #42 | OCTOBER | — X-Factor #38 |
| — X-Terminators #3 | — New Mutants #72 | — Daredevil #264 |
| — Avengers™ #298 | — X-Men #241 | — Excalibur #6 |
| SEPTEMBER | — X-Factor #37 | — Amazing Spider-Man #313 |
| — New Mutants™ #71 | — Daredevil #263 | — Spectacular Spider-Man #148 |
| — X-Men #240 | — Excalibur™ #5 | — Web of Spider-Man #48 |
| — X-Factor #36 | — Amazing Spider-Man #312 | — Fantastic Four #324 |

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

Inferno house ad from December 1988 titles
by Marc Silvestri & Terry Austin



THE UNCANNY
X-MEN

#240-242

THE NEW
MUTANTS

#71-73

X
FACTOR

#36-38

This 6.5" x 11.75" Inferno "shelf talker" was designed to sit behind comics on retailers' racks and let readers know when an issue had sold out.



Walter Simonson, Marc Silvestri & Dan Green and Bret Blevins' Inferno house ads were joined with a fourth piece by Alan Davis to create a giant 34" x 11" poster.

The reverse side of the poster featured a monthly breakdown of the crossover's tie-ins. Each of the four sections was also released as a separate 8.5" x 11" promo.

Jean Grey • Scott Summers • Madelyne Pryor

One coin with three sides . . .
the toss is coming.

S'ym • Mr. Sinister • N'Astirrh

Sometimes good planning takes a lifetime.

Ilyana Rasputin • Magik • Darkchilde

To thine ownself be true . . .

Angel • Christopher Charles Summers • Phoenix

Death . . . Life . . . Rebirth . . . An ending. A beginning.



INFERNO

THE NEW MUTANTS

#71 SHIPPING 9/13
SIMONSON • BLEVINS • WILLIAMSON
The team gets stuck in Limbo and must face S'YM and N'ASTIRRH. Their only chance to escape could mean the open up of a dimensional rift that could plunge the planet into a nightmare!

OK, so you have to figure that if Manhattan becomes a seething, boiling cauldron of demonic activity, it'll affect other characters in the Marvel Universe, right? Well, you don't have to read these INFERNO tie-ins if you don't want to, but while our merry mutants are fighting for their lives, so will the heroes in the following titles:

#292 SHIPPING 9/8
NUDETTI • ROMITA JR. • WILLIAMSON
On the brink of death, Darkdevil must play a deadly mind-game with his mentor, STOK, while his prone body is assaulted by a vacuum cleaner gone mad!

#311 SHIPPING 9/13
MICHELINIE • McFARLANE
MYSTERIO returns and the INFERNO madness has caused his Russian cloning studies to take a magical turn — the illusion he casts become real.

#289 SHIPPING 9/20
SIMONSON • BUSCEMA • PALMER
Read and Sue Richards, the NEW MUTANTS, the FORGOTTEN ONE and the CAPTAIN all wonder where the AVENGERS have gone since the INFERNO rages around them!

#322 SHIPPING 9/27
ENGLEHART • POLLARD • SINNOT
DRAW/ICH returns and is attracted to the altering of our physical plane caused by the dimensional hole. His powers can stop the INFERNO, but will the FF stop him before he tries?

#146 SHIPPING 9/27
CONWAY • BUSCEMA
HOBGOBLIN returns to begin his quest for the power of the original. Only Harry Osborn and Spidey can prevent him from succeeding — or can they?

#4 SHIPPING 9/27
SIMONSON • BUSGANDOVE • MILGROM
The X-FACTORS' dark destiny by to stop N'ASTIRRH from corrupting his mad plans — will they fail, succeed — or both?

#43 SHIPPING 9/27
BUSGANDOVE • WILLIAMSON & DRAKE
Having revealed their powers to their parents last issue, the kids begin to realize that the only way to stop the BOGEY MAN may be to kill him.

INFERNO

THE NEW MUTANTS

#72 SHIPPING 10/1
SIMONSON • BLEVINS • WILLIAMSON
The HELLFIRE CLUB and MAGNETO are contacted and conflicted by the actions of the INFERNO and with N'ASTIRRH's powers depleted, S'YM launches his master plan!

OK, so you have to figure that if Manhattan becomes a seething, boiling cauldron of demonic activity, it'll affect other characters in the Marvel Universe, right? Well, you don't have to read these INFERNO tie-ins if you don't want to, but while our merry mutants are fighting for their lives, so will the heroes in the following titles:

#263 SHIPPING 10/4
NUDETTI • ROMITA JR. • WILLIAMSON
The Man Without Fear having chosen life in the strip (at least issue, must face death at one again — as he rescues innocent civilians trapped in an INFERNO transformed subway-monsoon!

#47 SHIPPING 10/4
CONWAY • COVIL • WILLIAMS
Continued from Spectacular #146, Harry Osborn finds himself being consumed by the demon invasion — can the GREEN GOB IN be on the loose again?

#5 SHIPPING 10/4
CLAREMONT • DAVIS • NEARY
PHOENIX faces a revived Manhattan, answering a psychic summons from Scott and Madeline's baby. Her teammates pursue and soon find themselves in individual INFERNO-powered death traps!

#312 SHIPPING 10/11
MICHELINIE • McFARLANE
The GREEN GOB IN confronts Spidey — but as friend or foe? As a power hungry HOBGOBLIN N also fits mix and the situation becomes downright dangerous!

#300 SHIPPING 10/18
SIMONSON • BUSCEMA • PALMER
Special TRIPLE-SIZED ANNIVERSARY issue! As a result of the INFERNO action ravaging Manhattan, a new AVENGERS team must be formed — one of the most powerful and off-beat teams yet!

#323 SHIPPING 10/25
ENGLEHART • POLLARD • SINNOT
The astronomical ramifications of the INFERNO interdimensional rift draws the attention of KING THE CONQUEROR, the mysterious HECABRAND and MANTIS in a new Central Macdonia storyline!

#147 SHIPPING 10/25
CONWAY • BUSCEMA
HOBGOBLIN, having been soundly defeated by Spidey and the GREEN GOB IN in AMAZING #312, asks for and receives a gift of power from the demon S'YM — will he resist?

INFERNO

THE NEW MUTANTS

#73 SHIPPING 11/8
SIMONSON • BLEVINS • WILLIAMSON
A DOUBLE-SIZED spectacle as ILYANA Rasputin faces off against S'YM in a terrifying confrontation which will rock the foundations of the mutant books!

OK, so you have to figure that if Manhattan becomes a seething, boiling cauldron of demonic activity, it'll affect other characters in the Marvel Universe, right? Well, you don't have to read these INFERNO tie-ins if you don't want to, but while our merry mutants are fighting for their lives, so will the heroes in the following titles:

#264 SHIPPING 11/1
NUDETTI • ROMITA JR. • WILLIAMSON
In issue #260, DD was beaten within an inch of his life — now he must fight his way through an INFERNO-transformed Hell's Kitchen to reclaim his measure as a hero.

#6 SHIPPING 11/1
CLAREMONT • DAVIS • GREEN
The dimensional death traps from last issue keep our intrepid mutants occupied long enough for them to miss the first events of INFERNO. They miss out on all of the fun that way! Figures.

#313 SHIPPING 11/8
MICHELINIE • McFARLANE
The return of the Lizard — but the combination of INFERNO and Todd McFarlane's art — it's a LIZARD you've never seen before!

#44 SHIPPING 11/8
BUSGANDOVE • BARTIA
The NEW MUTANTS guest star as the Power was deft, their parents and assist the people being plagued by the demon attack across Manhattan!

#324 SHIPPING 11/22
ENGLEHART • POLLARD • SINNOT
Continued the Central Macdonia storyline from the previous issue and advances the notion that the HUMAN TORCH's ability to tame off may be something more than a result of the INFERNO influence.

#38 SHIPPING 11/22
SIMONSON • SIMONSON • WIACEK
A DOUBLE-SIZED INFERNO finale! Madeline and Jean fight for their right to exist! ARCH-ANGEL repays the team! INFERNO is over but one loose end is left hanging . . . MR SINISTER must pay for what he's done.

#148 SHIPPING 11/29
CONWAY • BUSCEMA
The web-head faces an INFERNO finale that will save him too hard to notice he's got guest-stars and villains galore.

INFERNO

THE NEW MUTANTS

#74 SHIPPING 12/13
SIMONSON • BLEVINS • WILLIAMSON
The bravest piece of INFERNO has left everyone completely exhausted — but there is still a lot to do. What will become of Xavier's Mansion? Will MAGNETO assume leadership of the HELLFIRE CLUB? If so, will the NEW MUTANTS be forced to enter the WHITE QUEEN's Massachusetts Academy?

OK, so you have to figure that if Manhattan becomes a seething, boiling cauldron of demonic activity, it'll affect other characters in the Marvel Universe, right? Well, you don't have to read these INFERNO tie-ins if you don't want to, but while our merry mutants are fighting for their lives, so will the heroes in the following titles:

#4 SHIPPING 12/27
AUSTIN • VESBURG • AUSTIN
Leave it to these two to get involved with the INFERNO madness after all over! But it's not their fault three demons were left stranded on Earth after the dimensional rift was sealed. Or that the only way they have of getting back to Limbo is through CLOAK's cape.

#243 SHIPPING 12/20
CLAREMONT • SILVESTRI • GREEN
CYCLOPS and MARVEL GIRL battle alongside the X-MEN against MR. SINISTER! It's pay-back time.

#39 SHIPPING 12/27
SIMONSON • SIMONSON • WIACEK
The conclusion of the war against Sinister and a reaffirmation of love between Scott and Jean. The GENETIX kids resolve some of their problems with the mutant registration act at the same time.

#324 SHIPPING 11/22
ENGLEHART • POLLARD • SINNOT
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CONWAY • BUSCEMA
The web-head faces an INFERNO finale that will save him too hard to notice he's got guest-stars and villains galore.

#148 SHIPPING 11/29
CONWAY • BUSCEMA
The web-head faces an INFERNO finale that will save him too hard to notice he's got guest-stars and villains galore.



Inferno promo poster (1988) *X-Factor* section
by Walter Simonson

Jean Grey™ · Scott Summers™ · Madelyne Pryor™

One coin with three sides . . .
the toss is coming.

Inferno promo poster (1988) *The Uncanny X-Men* section
by Marc Silvestri & Dan Green

S'ym™ · Mr. Sinister™ · N'Astirh™

Sometimes good planning takes a lifetime.



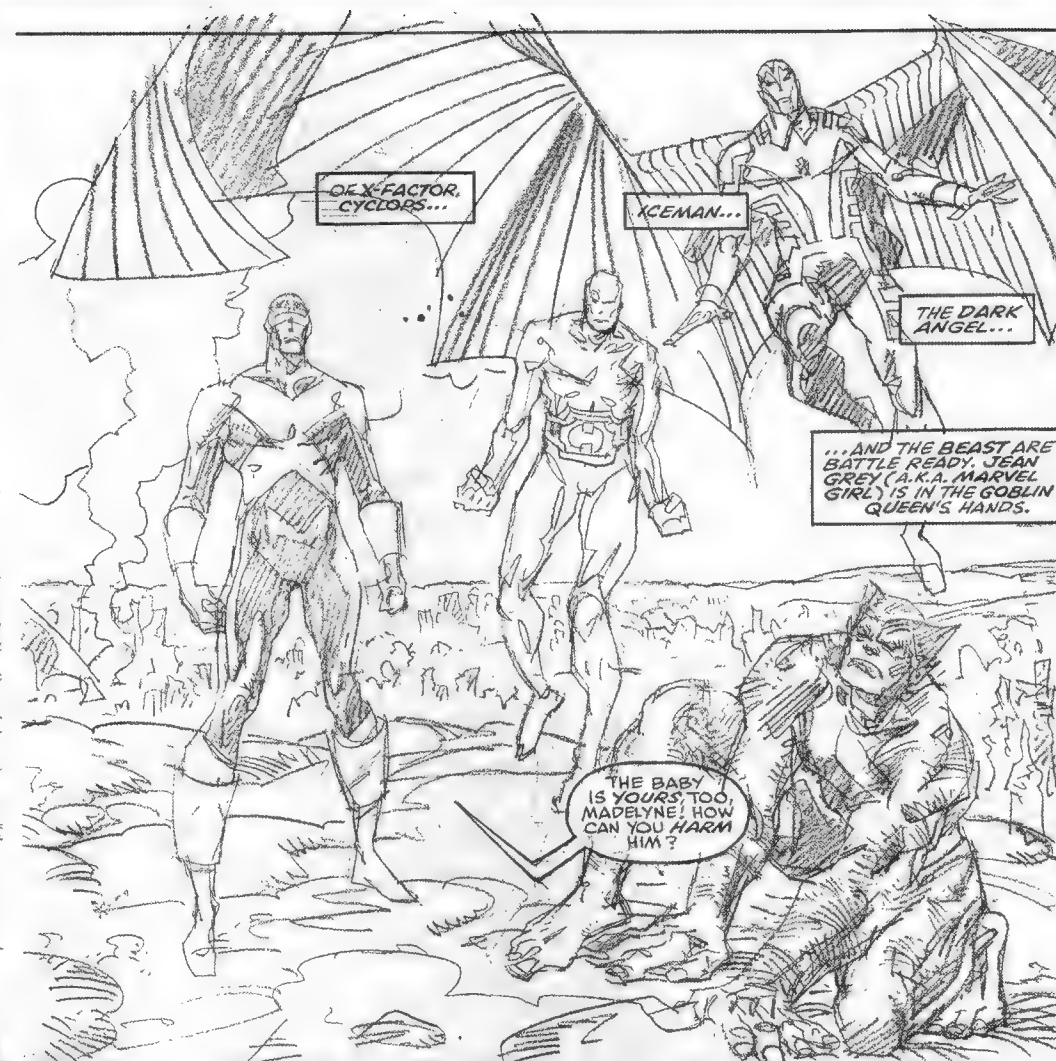
Inferno promo poster (1988) *The New Mutants* section
by Bret Blevins

Illyana Rasputin™ • Magik™ • Darkchilde™
To thine ownself be true . . .

Inferno promo poster (1988) *Excalibur* section
by Alan Davis

Angel™ • Christopher Charles Summers™ • Phoenix™
Death . . . Life . . . Rebirth . . . An ending. A beginning.







X-Factor #39 cover original art
by Walter Simonson



X-FACTOR 39

6 1/2 x 10 1/2

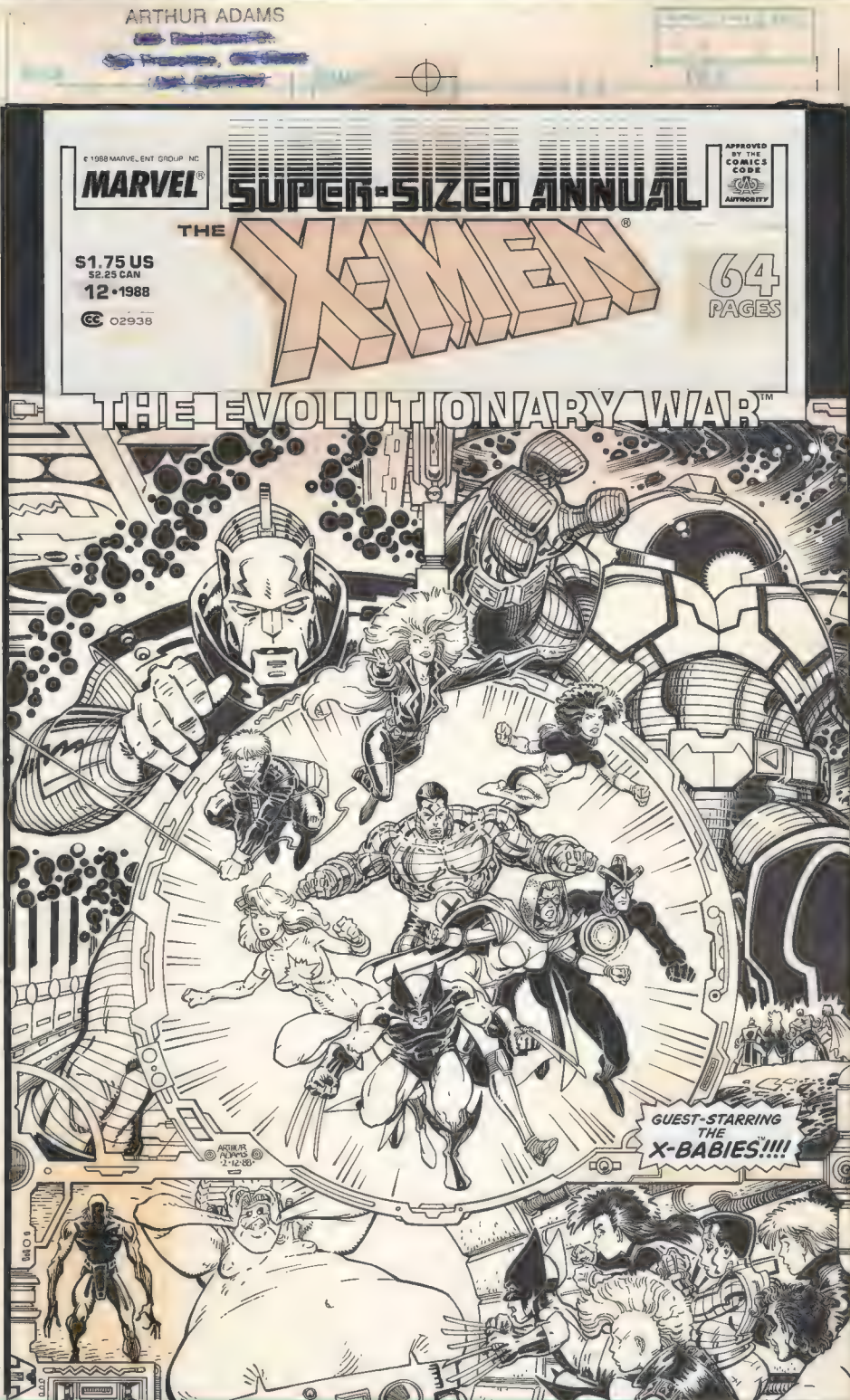
SIMONSON

X-Factor #39 cover color guide



Courtesy Walter Simonson

The X-Men Annual #12 cover original art
by Arthur Adams



OFFSET. 120 SCR. E-DOWN

X-MEN ANNUAL #12 E-DOWN

OFFSET. E-DOWN
120 SCR. E-DOWN

6/13/10

X-Men: Inferno TPB (1996) cover
by Rick Leonardi & Dan Green



Reprinting *The Uncanny X-Men* #239-243, *The New Mutants* #71-73 and *X-Factor* #36-39

INTRODUCTION

BY MARK BERNARDO

FROM *X-MEN: INFERNO* TPB (1996)

So why am I writing this introduction, you ask? Is it because I share an office with the editor of this painstaking package, Jaye Gardner? Could it be that, having worked on the *Spider-Man* books as an assistant editor for three years, I’m regarded as an authority on any comic book story that involves clones (as this one does)? It’s hard to say…I wasn’t involved with the formation of “Inferno” at all when it first saw print…as an editor, a writer, an artist or anything in between! And I’m not old enough to be considered any kind of legitimate comics historian, looking at this all from some sage-like pedestal. I was only involved with it in the way that probably a lot of you were…as a reader and a fan. And maybe that’s what gives me a unique perspective.

Going back and rereading these issues brought me this almost indescribable, wonderful sense of déjà vu. I was instantly transported back to my sophomore year at college in Pennsylvania, when every Tuesday was New Comics Day, and I’d make the weekly rounds to the local stores, picking up all the week’s four-color treasures, and settling in (after classes, of course!) for an evening with a pile of comics, a bag of chips and a big ol’ soda. The “Inferno” crossover, with all of its myriad tie-ins and its profound effect on not just the X-books (of which there were only three at the time, sonny!) but the whole of the Marvel Universe, brings back that era more than any other single story of that year.

After all, this was not just a story wherein the X-Men fought a lot of demons (though, admittedly, as a skeptical fanboy, I did have that fear initially). This was an intricately plotted saga that resolved an armload of longstanding mysteries, and brought lots of long-buried conflicts to a sometimes almost unbearably intense boiling point! This was the story wherein we finally learned the real motivations of the mysterious Mr. Sinister, and how they played into the even more insidious intentions of the demon-lord N’Astirh. This was where we finally got to see the X-Men’s climactic battle royale with the ruthless Marauders, going for some retribution for the Marauders’ vicious depredations in the Mutant Massacre (a crossover that makes me flash back to my *freshman* year, but enough of that…). This is where the conflict between Illyana Rasputin and her former servant S’ym over the rulership of Limbo finally built to a fever pitch, and a startling resolution.

And these were just the preliminary bouts! What about the X-Men’s first meeting with the original X-Factor, and the friction that ensued? Remember, X-Factor at the time consisted solely of members of the original X-Men—and they, like the rest of the world at the time, believed the current group of X-Men to be dead! And speaking of friction, what about Madelyne Pryor’s first confrontation with Jean Grey—the woman who she felt had pulled her husband Scott Summers away from her? What about the true origin of Madelyne being revealed at long last—and the tragic, inevitable fate that befalls her? (To all of you reading this tale for the first time, I’m not gonna give it away here—after all, no one was there to give me hints when I was reading it back in college!) The events in the monumental storyline, collected here for the first time in one volume, continue to have a lasting impact on the X-Men’s lives to this day.

The other really wild thing about experiencing the “Inferno” saga again is seeing the creative teams of the various books involved doing some of their finest work. *The New Mutants* had Louise Simonson and Bret Blevins at the peak of their collaboration. *X-Factor* was the husband-and-wife dream team of Louise and her husband, the great Walter Simonson, bursting with creative energy. And as far as *The Uncanny X-Men* chapters go…what is left to be said about legendary X-Men

writer Chris Claremont, his superb handling of the X-Men characters, his flair for dialogue and his inimitable storytelling style? But the most interesting thing to me as a second-time reader was the art by Marc Silvestri. He’d already been on the book for a while, but it seemed like it was in “Inferno,” with its extra-dimensional madness, monstrous demons, possessed New Yorkers and mind-blowing visuals of a city gripped by unholy forces, that his artistic style really grew into the distinct and immensely popular style that catapulted him into the top echelon of comics creators.

So there you have it. For those of you that will be devouring this saga for the first time, I envy you. Not only do you get to read all of this massive epic in one sitting (if you so desire), whereas I had to wait a painful few weeks between every installment—but you’re about to see a piece of X-Men history unfold before your eyes. For those, like myself, who will be rereading “Inferno” in one big block, I suggest you settle back with a soda and a bag of chips (or your favorite equivalent) and before you dive into the story, take a moment to remember where you were and what you were doing when you first sat down to read these mutant masterworks.

Is there perchance a smile playing across your face now? I thought so…

Enjoy!

— Mark Bernardo
1996

X-Men: Earthfall #1 (September 1996) cover
by Ian Churchill & Al Vey



X-Men vs. Brood TPB (1997) cover
by Roger Cruz

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X-MEN VS. BROOD



CLAREMONT OSTRANDER SILVESTRI HITCH 

PLAYING WITH THE A-TEAM

BY JOHN OSTRANDER

FROM *X-MEN VS. BROOD TPB* (1997)

I'm an older *X-Men* fan than you are.

Well, than *most* of you out there anyway.

How far do I go back? I was reading the book when they killed Professor X the *first* time. (Turned out that the Changeling was *pretending* to be Professor X. He knew he was dying and sacrificed himself so that Professor X could work on some *other* terrible problem.) I was there when they *cancelled* the book because of *low sales*. (I was bitterly disappointed. *The X-Men* was one of my faves.) When they brought it back, however, I was initially very irritated. See, they replaced *my* X-Men with the likes of Storm, Colossus, Nightcrawler, the Banshee and this *punk* Wolverine. Yuck! These guys wouldn't last; not a chance! I was there when Magneto was an unrepentant villain! I remember when they first trotted out the Sentinels! I was there when they brought in a hotshot young artist to jazz up the visuals. (Nah, nah—not Jim Lee. This was *Neal Adams* and he was *soooo cooooo!*) You got the picture—I'm a *stone-age* X-Men fan. I liked 'em *before* they were cool! I was a fan back when they only had *one book* and *no* offshoots, no miniseries, no tie-ins! Heck, I remember when it cost *twelve cents* to buy an issue of *The X-Men*!

No, I'm not making all this up. There really was a time when all this was true.

I just wanted to let you know I'm no Johnny-come-lately to the X-Men, okay?

Let's jump forward a bit. I'd been a comic book writer about twelve or thirteen years at this point. I'd gotten so good that even Marvel is finally hiring me! At this point, I've even dabbled in the X-Men gene writing pool. I'd done some issues of *X-Man* and the *Bishop* limited series (which also first brought Carlos Pacheco to your attention, thank you very much, and the collected TPB of *that* should still be on sale out there somewhere in case you want to buy it, hint, say no more). What I had *never* done up to this point is play with the main team.

Which brings us to the stories in this collection. Can you imagine my answer when I was asked if I wanted to play with the main team? Not just the guys I remembered but the new kids and one or two others as well. The catch was that they wanted me to follow up on a dangling plot thread that *Chris Claremont* had left.

Let's use some analogies. Say that Michael Jordan eventually (like maybe age 60) decides to retire. Would *you* want to be the one they pick to take his place on the Chicago Bulls? Or take Cal Ripken Jr. Would *you* want to pinch hit for him? Let's say you're a comedian; would you want to go on stage just after Robin Williams or Jim Carrey has finished a set?

The idea of finishing up a storyline that Chris Claremont started is something like that. The guy's a justified legend with X-Fans. Just a *hint* that he might come back to write an X-Something starts a feeding frenzy of rumors. And one must note that Chris was generous with his loose threads of storyline. He was *always* dropping something that he could come back to. My guess is if the X-writers *wanted* to focus on just those loose threads, they could write the books for a year or so. However, you are then held up to the standards Chris set up in the original stories.

So, on one hand, we have a high intimidation factor. On the other hand, it's a chance to write the *main team* of the X-Men. What the hey. I go for it.

For my initial homework, I reread Chris's story that begins this collected volume. And then I reread it again. Not hard to do. I decide that the obvious connection between Chris's story and mine has to be Hannah and William Connover, not only narratively, but thematically. You see, The X-Men is always *about* something. Prejudice, heroism, faith, betrayal—a good X-Men storyline always has a deeper core. “Beating up the bad guys” is not a theme; it's an action. The core issue causes the X-Men to question themselves and, in their questions, we hear some of our own and to their answers, we can compare our own.

The two main themes, for me, in this collected work are faith and love. What do you love? What do you believe? How deeply do you love/believe? What are your core values? It's what I picked out of Chris's end of the story and decided they had to be the bedrock of my part as well.

I needed also to consider the villains of the piece, the Brood, as well. These are among the vilest, nastiest foes the X-Men have ever faced. Calling them the *Aliens* of the Marvel Universe is not far wrong. In the past, the only way to stop them was to kill them, which the X-Men have done largely without compunction.

That was one of the questions I wanted to have the X-Men face. Up until now, only one or two beings have ever come back from being Brood and they were mutants. Normal humans, once infected, were no longer human. They were Brood. They couldn't be saved. Up until now, there was no possibility of bringing them back. So the X-Men made war and took no prisoners.

What would happen if that was no longer *strictly* true? What if a possibility existed, however small, that they *might* be saved? How would that affect what the X-Men chose to do? How tough would that choice be? Hmmm—sounded like an interesting story to me.

To that end, I delved further into Brood society. Each hive has its own Queen but it seemed to me there had to be one above all, the Brood Empress. If one of the Queens got uppity, how would the Empress deal with it? Who are the Brood enforcers used to keep all the hives in line? So came the *Firstborn*, Brood born to the Empress herself and answering only to her. Larger, meaner, nastier than the other Brood. Brood to give *other* Broodlings nightmares. Just what was needed to make life even *tougher* on our merry band of mutants.

It was in writing the individual X-Men themselves that I was most nervous. Each is an individual. That's the secret of writing *any* team book but in writing the X-Men in particular. Each has to have his or her own goals, his or her own needs, wants and desires, his or her own voice and his or her own code of honor. And these are going to sometimes clash *within* the group as well as without. That adds to the dynamics of the story; you have external conflict (carrying the action) as well as internal conflict (carrying the theme). Since these are familiar characters, they must act like themselves as well. It's what makes an assignment like this both interesting and *fun*.

Having picked up one loose thread in my part of the story, I leave another at the end. Hey, there's such a thing as *tradition*, right? Maybe someday I'll get a shot at coming back and finishing it or somebody else will pick it up. Writing the X-Men is something of a relay race; you're always passing off the baton.

But I've at least had my shot at writing some of my favorite characters. I've really enjoyed it and I hope that you will, as well. Let me know what you think. As Stan “The Man” Lee always said, you guys are the real bosses around here.

Catch you in the funny books.

— John Ostrander
1996

BIOGRAPHIES

CHRIS CLAREMONT

It is hard to remember a time when the word “mutant” didn’t correspond with the largest and most ardently followed franchise in comics, but in the mid-’70s the X-Men were naught but a forgotten team of misfits. Chris Claremont and his collaborators took this moribund property and issue by issue transformed it into a phenomenon now known the world over.

Claremont began his career in comics in the early ’70s pitching in on issues of *Avengers*, *Daredevil* and *Incredible Hulk*, while also delivering several text stories to Marvel’s black-and-white magazines. His first regular writing gig was *War Is Hell*, a “weird war” title that came to a close just as his run on *X-Men* and *Iron Fist* began. *Iron Fist*, which rolled out of the pages of *Marvel Premiere*, was done in concert with artist John Byrne, forming a key partnership that would pay big dividends later. Other high-profile projects from Claremont’s first full decade in comics included *Marvel Preview*’s Starlord, *Ms. Marvel*, *Marvel Team-Up* (again with Byrne) and *John Carter: Warlord of Mars*.

But it was in the pages of *X-Men* where Claremont would change comics history. In tandem with artists Dave Cockrum and John Byrne, Claremont helped build a cornerstone franchise for Marvel. After writer Len Wein launched the newly updated series in 1975 with *Giant-Size X-Men* #1, Claremont was tasked with guiding the new adventures of the mutant misfits, and he did so by crafting layered stories that balanced crisp dialogue with high-octane action. Claremont placed a premium on characterization, a lofty goal in a team book with many players, but he did so deftly enough to spin a wide-ranging tapestry of characters, each of whom became fan favorites.

Leading breathless fans down the path of classics including “The Dark Phoenix Saga,” “Days of Future Past,” and *God Loves, Man Kills*, he helped build such an intense loyalty that it only made sense to spin-off the X-Men’s success into new books. The first such spin-off was *The New Mutants*. Later in the decade, Claremont launched *Excalibur* with Alan Davis and established a regular series for Wolverine with John Buscema.

In 1990, he launched a new sister title for the main team of mutants with Jim Lee; *X-Men* #1 premiered to numbers that made it the highest-selling comic ever. After a long break from the company, Claremont returned to Marvel in 2000, and over the next ten years wrote the novelization of Bryan Singer’s X-Men film, took on the Fantastic Four, and charted the adventures of Marvel’s mutants across a variety of titles. He was inducted into the Eisner Hall of Fame with its 2015 class.

MARC SILVESTRI

Born in Florida in 1958, Marc Silvestri grew up with a love for comics and science fiction movies that inspired him to become a comic book artist. He developed his skills well enough that by the age of 23, he attended a convention to try to gauge interest in his work. DC vice president and veteran artist Joe Orlando was impressed enough with the young Silvestri’s portfolio that

he hired him to draw backup stories in DC’s horror anthologies. Silvestri jumped over to Marvel soon after, settling in for a long run on *King Conan/Conan the King*, after which he illustrated the Marvel Graphic Novel *Revenge of the Living Monolith*, issues of *X-Factor* and *Web of Spider-Man*. In 1987, he established himself as one of the defining artists of the X-Men, first with the *X-Men vs. The Avengers* miniseries, then an iconic run drawing *The Uncanny X-Men* that would last through 1990. He followed that up with a two-year stint on *Wolverine* that delved deeper into the character’s origins. In the summer of 1992, Silvestri and six of his peers shocked the comics industry by leaving Marvel and forming Image Comics, a creator-owned independent publishing company. Under his Image imprint Top Cow, he created and drew *Cyberforce*, joined by brother Eric as scripter, and scripted the spinoff series *Codename: Stryke Force*. In 1995, he co-created *The Darkness* with writer Garth Ennis and *Witchblade*, a property that Silvestri helped develop into its own popular 2001-2002 TV series on the TNT network. Silvestri returned to Marvel in 2004, drawing *New X-Men* “Here Comes Tomorrow,” the conclusion to Grant Morrison’s revolutionary run. Since then, Silvestri has contributed to the X-Men events “Messiah Complex” and “Utopia,” issues of Jason Aaron’s *The Incredible Hulk* series and dozens of covers for Marvel.

ARTHUR ADAMS

Arthur Adams has been drawing for as long as he can remember. Born into an Air Force family in 1963, Adams moved around the country with his family until his father was stationed in Vacaville, CA, where they were able to put down roots. Arthur’s mother would bring home stacks of comic books from her monthly trips to the thrift store, giving him an early education in the art form. But his main interest as a kid was in drawing dinosaurs and classic monster-movie characters.

It wasn’t until he bought the first issue of *Micronauts* in 1979, drawn by Michael Golden, that he realized it was comics that he wanted to pursue. He picked up other influences such as Bernie Wrightson, Bill Sienkiewicz and Walter Simonson. At the age of 19, he wrote a piece of fan mail to *Captain Carrot and His Amazing Zoo Crew!* and included a pinup of a character named Fara Foxette in an homage to the famous ’70s poster of Farrah Fawcett. *Zoo Crew* creator Roy Thomas loved it so much he paid Adams \$10 to publish it, and Adams was off and running in a career in comic book art.

After samples of his work made their way through Marvel Editorial, the promising talent was assigned to an unassuming miniseries in development writer/editor by Ann Nocenti. That series, *Longshot*, would make a star out of Adams. His detailed and dynamic pencils carried a joyful energy that made him an instant fan-favorite and also introduced many American readers to manga-influenced artwork. Both Adams and the character he co-created were soon brought into the X-Men’s orbit. Chris Claremont teamed with Adams on special issues such as *New Mutants Special Edition* #1 and numerous *X-Men Annuals*. Adams would also draw issues of *X-Factor*, the *Excalibur: Mojo Mayhem* graphic novel and the three-part “New Fantastic Four.”

At DC, Adams drew *Action Comics Annual* #1 starring both Superman and Batman, raising his profile to a wider audience. The whimsical Adams was perfectly suited for a pair of Gumby specials for Comico, which earned him and collaborator Bob Burden an Eisner Award for Best Single Issue. At Dark Horse, he channeled his love of monsters into an adaptation of the '50s film classic *The Creature from the Black Lagoon* and *Godzilla Color Special*, which Adams also scripted. He also launched his series *Monkeyman* and *O'Brien* through Dark Horse's creator-owned imprint Legend. At Wildstorm, Adams drew *Gen13* and *The Authority* and co-created the Jonni Future serial in *Tom Strong's Terrific Tales*. His recent work has included collaborations with writer Jeph Loeb on *Hulk* and *Ultimate Comics: X* and scores of cover art.

RICK LEONARDI

As soon as Rick Leonardi graduated from Dartmouth College in 1979, he sent Marvel and DC a self-written and -drawn comic book that spoke to his artistic potential. Marvel wrote back, encouraging him to take a job with them. In his first years in comics, Leonardi eased himself into the business with a handful of stories in *Thor* and *The Spectacular Spider-Man*. After proving himself, he landed a pair of higher-profile gigs with writer Bill Mantlo on the 1982 miniseries *The Vision and the Scarlet Witch* and *Cloak and Dagger*. After penciling issues of *The Amazing Spider-Man*—and being a part of the development of Spider-Man's new black costume with Mike Zeck—Leonardi reunited with Mantlo to launch an ongoing *Cloak and Dagger* series in 1985. He followed that up with Marvel's top-selling X-titles, drawing a Colossus serial in *Marvel Comics Presents* and several issues of *The Uncanny X-Men* and *The New Mutants*. In 1992, Leonardi and Peter David created Miguel O'Hara in *Spider-Man 2099*, a series Leonardi would draw for most of the first 25 issues of its run. In the late '90s, Leonardi drew the five-issue series *Painkiller Jane* for Joe Quesada and Jimmy Palmiotti's Event Comics, and in the 2000s, he would head to DC for stints with *Batgirl*, *Vigilante* and *Nightwing*. A longtime fan of Batman, Leonardi's most recent project is the ongoing series *Batman Beyond*.

LOUISE SIMONSON

Louise Simonson has earned acclaim as one of the industry's top editors and writers, but her first appearance in comics was as the model for the woman Swamp Thing stalks on the *House of Secrets* #92 cover. She started her professional career in comics with Warren in the mid-'70s, first in their production department and then as editor of their black-and-white horror magazines *Creepy*, *Eerie* and *Vampirella*. In 1980, Jim Shooter recruited her to Marvel to edit licensed titles like *Battlestar Galactica*, *Star Trek* and *Shogun Warriors*, but it wasn't long before she was graduated onto the mainline Marvel Universe books. She was handed the Conan family of titles after Roy Thomas departed from Marvel, and also took the reins on *Star Wars*, *Ka-Zar the Savage* and *The X-Men*, the latter of which was on the cusp of becoming a pop-culture phenomenon. During Simonson's tenure as editor, *The X-Men* notched milestone storylines including "The Dark Phoenix Saga" and "Days of Future Past," she recruited artists Paul Smith and John Romita Jr., and the X-line expanded with titles like *The New Mutants* and the miniseries *Wolverine*, *Magik* and *Longshot*.

By the mid-'80s, Simonson moved to full-time writing, helping launch *Power Pack* with artist June Brigman, and working with artist Mary Wilshire on *Red Sonja* and an *Amazing Spider-Man Annual*, which was the first story of Marvel's flagship character to be written and drawn by women. She also scripted the first three issues of *Web of Spider-Man*. It was while writing in the X-Universe that Simonson would make her most indelible contributions to Marvel, first in taking over the writing reins of *X-Factor*, where she would co-create the iconic super villain Apocalypse, and in *The New Mutants*, where she and artist Rob Liefeld introduced the time-shifting mutant Cable. In 1991, she moved to DC where she co-wrote the "Death of Superman" saga, launched *Superman: The Man of Steel* with artist Jon Bogdanove and introduced the character Steel in a self-titled series. As the '90s closed, she returned to Marvel to write *Galactus the Devourer* and *Warlock*. Since then, she has written several young adult novels, worked for IDW and Valiant and returned to Marvel and DC for projects like *X-Factor Forever* and *Wonder Woman: Warbringer*. She and her husband, fellow comics creator Walter Simonson, married in 1980 and live in upstate New York.

WALTER SIMONSON

Walter Simonson mixed the power of Jack Kirby comics with an experimental European influence to produce a visual style that has made him one of his generation's foremost innovators.

After achieving acclaim for DC's "Manhunter" feature in *Detective Comics*, Simonson moved to Marvel's black-and-white magazine line where he illustrated an adaptation of Robert E. Howard's "The Hyborean Age" and penciled the first three issues of *Rampaging Hulk*. Next came a yearlong stint on *Thor* that would be far from his last encounter with the Asgardian hero. Simonson soon made a decisive shift to sci-fi. Adaptations of *Close Encounters of the Third Time* for Marvel and *Alien: The Illustrated Story in Heavy Metal* were followed by runs on *Battlestar Galactica*, which featured Simonson's first writing credits, and *Star Wars*. Simonson continued to develop his craft as a writer on Marvel's *Raiders of the Lost Ark* adaptation and *Marvel Graphic Novel* #6: *Star Slammers*, a concept revived from his art school days that he wrote, penciled and inked.

In 1982, Simonson teamed with writer Chris Claremont on the DC/Marvel crossover team-up of the X-Men and New Teen Titans. Shortly thereafter, he began his epochal run scripting and penciling *Thor*, the first issue of which introduced Beta Ray Bill and became one of the most highly acclaimed titles of the period. His collaboration with his wife, Louise, on *X-Factor* included the introduction of Archangel and Apocalypse. Later, the husband and wife team would write the *Havok & Wolverine: Meltdown* prestige miniseries.

In the early '90s, Simonson had a memorable run writing and drawing *Fantastic Four*. Other credits from this era included the *Iron Man: 2020* one-shot and *Avengers*. More recent work has included *Orion* at DC, *Elric: The Making of a Sorcerer* with Michael Moorcock and *Avengers* and *Indestructible Hulk* for Marvel.

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THE GOLDEN AGE

As the Great Depression wore on and the specter of war hung over America, a new storytelling medium was born: the comic book. Within their four-color pages, larger-than-life super heroes could make short work of America's foes, giving readers of all ages hope for victory against the real-life enemies that faced the United States. At the forefront of this new medium was Timely Comics, a young company staffed by such legendary creators as Carl Burgos, Bill Everett, Joe Simon, Jack Kirby and Stan Lee.

GOLDEN AGE ALL-WINNERS VOLS. 1-4
GOLDEN AGE CAPTAIN AMERICA VOLS. 1-6
GOLDEN AGE DARING MYSTERY VOLS. 1-2
GOLDEN AGE HUMAN TORCH VOLS. 1-3
GOLDEN AGE MARVEL COMICS VOLS. 1-7

GOLDEN AGE MYSTIC COMICS VOL. 1
GOLDEN AGE SUB-MARINER VOLS. 1-3
GOLDEN AGE U.S.A. COMICS VOLS. 1-2
GOLDEN AGE YOUNG ALLIES VOLS. 1-2

THE ATLAS ERA

Seeing super heroes waning, Timely Comics evolved into Atlas Comics and took on a vast new range of genres: science-fiction tales of outer space adventures; realistic war comics; buxom jungle heroines; horror comics that would become the center of a moral panic that rocked the industry; and romance comics for the emerging teen audience. Even the classic costumed heroes of the Golden Age retooled to take on the threat of Communism. From Western gunfighters to crime to horror, the Atlas Era had it all!

ATLAS ERA BATTLEFIELD VOL. 1
ATLAS ERA BLACK KNIGHT/YELLOW CLAW VOL. 1
ATLAS ERA HEROES VOLS. 1-3
ATLAS ERA JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY VOLS. 1-4
ATLAS ERA JUNGLE ADVENTURE VOLS. 1-3

ATLAS ERA MENACE VOL. 1
ATLAS ERA STRANGE TALES VOLS. 1-6
ATLAS ERA TALES TO ASTONISH VOLS. 1-4
ATLAS ERA TALES OF SUSPENSE VOLS. 1-4
ATLAS ERA VENUS VOL. 1

THE MARVEL AGE

In August 1961, change hit newsstands: *The Fantastic Four* #1 did not feature the squeaky-clean heroes of yesteryear. They were real characters placed in extraordinary circumstances. They lived together, they fought among themselves — and sometimes, they even lost to the bad guys. This was more than a change in attitude: It was the beginning of something entirely different — the beginning of the Marvel Age of Comics!

Thanks to the fertile imaginations of Stan Lee, Jack Kirby, Steve Ditko and others, an unending list of heroes followed the FF with ever-increasing acclaim and popularity: the Amazing Spider-Man, the Mighty Thor, the Incredible Hulk, Daredevil, Iron Man and the X-Men, to name but a few. These were the Marvel heroes, born of conflict and a continuous struggle to balance human lives with superhuman responsibilities.

THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN VOLS. 1-25
ANT-MAN/GIANT-MAN VOLS. 1-3
THE AVENGERS VOLS. 1-23
THE BLACK PANTHER VOLS. 1-3
BROTHER VOODOO VOL. 1
CAPTAIN AMERICA VOLS. 1-15
CAPTAIN MARVEL VOLS. 1-6
THE CHAMPIONS VOL. 1
DAREDEVIL VOLS. 1-18
DAZZLER VOLS. 1-4
DEATHLOK VOL. 1
THE DEFENDERS VOLS. 1-8
DOCTOR STRANGE VOLS. 1-10
THE FANTASTIC FOUR VOLS. 1-25
GHOST RIDER VOLS. 1-5
HOWARD THE DUCK VOLS. 1-2
THE HUMAN TORCH VOLS. 1-2
THE INCREDIBLE HULK VOLS. 1-17
THE INHUMANS VOLS. 1-2
THE INVINCIBLE IRON MAN VOLS. 1-17
IRON FIST VOLS. 1-2
KA-ZAR VOLS. 1-3

KILLRAVEN VOL. 1
LUKE CAGE VOLS. 1-3
MARVEL RARITIES VOL. 1
MARVEL TEAM-UP VOLS. 1-7
MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE VOLS. 1-7
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RAWHIDE KID VOLS. 1-2
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SGT. FURY VOLS. 1-4
THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN VOLS. 1-6
SPIDER-WOMAN VOLS. 1-4
THE SILVER SURFER VOLS. 1-2
THE SUB-MARINER VOLS. 1-8
THE TOMB OF DRACULA VOLS. 1-3
WARLOCK VOLS. 1-2
WEREWOLF BY NIGHT VOLS. 1-2
THE X-MEN VOLS. 1-8
THE UNCANNY X-MEN VOLS. 1-16



MARVEL